And justice for all? SC upholds guilty ruling on Abadilla 5

By Marlen Ranoa

THE SUPREME COURT has affirmed the conviction and life sentences meted out on five men for the 1986 murder of Col. Rolando Abadilla, an intelligence chief of the now-defunct Philippine Constabulary who gained notoriety for alleged torturing political prisoners during the Marcos regime in the 1970s.

Giving the failure of the accused to prove their alibi, the high court upheld the April 1, 2008, ruling of the Court of Appeals (CA) finding Joel de Jesus, Leniido Lumanog, Ramonito de Jesus,

SC UPHOLDS A11

BUSINESS / B1

Remittances hit $1.6B in July

BUSINESS / B2

Francis Lim's Point of Law debuts today

LIFESTYLE / C1

Step by step: Bacon-wrapped 'camaron rebosado'

ENTERTAINMENT / E1

Some stars go hungry for World Vision campaign

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, September 16, 2010 ▲▲ Vol. 33 / No. 208

FEARING imprisonment, suspended ARMM Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan was prepared to point to his brother as the brains behind the killings but was prevented by their lawyer, a witness told the court. AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL JR.

'Zaldy suggested sacrificing Unsay'

Witness says lawyer advised Ampatuans not to admit guilt

SALIAO More explosive testimony from witness

By Philip C. Tubeza

IN THE AFTERMATH of the massacre of 57 people, brother turned against brother in the Ampatuan clan as the family faced multiple murder charges and pondered whose head should roll, a court was told yesterday.

Afraid that he would be jailed, Zaldy Ampatuan was prepared to tag his younger brother Anwar Ampatuan Jr. as the man responsible for the worst political violence in the nation's history, said former househelp Laborador Saliao.

Continuing his testimony before Judge Jocelyn Solis-Reyes at Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan, Saliao testified that lawyer Sigfrid Fortun advised Zaldy, then governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), not to admit anything and leave the matter to the lawyers.

Last week, Saliao testified that Ampatuan Jr., the mayor of Datu Unsay town (nicknamed Unsay) carried out the family directives to waylay on Nov. 23, 2009, a convoy of a political rival contesting the gubernatorial seat in Maguindanao in the May elections.

Saliao said the family patriarch, former Gov. Andal Ampatuan Sr., gave the order to kill relatives and supporters of Toto Mangudadatu, along with at least 30 media workers.

The group was en route to file the certificate of candidacy of Mangudadatu, who had sent his wife and sisters, thinking they would not be harmed. Mangudadatu subsequently won as Maguindanao governor.

"Father, I will accept that it is

SALIAO A13

FORMER presidential adviser on Mindanao affairs Jesus Dureza accompanies massacre suspect Andal Ampatuan Jr. as he is transferred to Manila from General Santos City in this photo taken on Nov. 26, 2009. A witness testified yesterday that Dureza got P10 million from the Ampatuans for Ampatuan Jr.'s freedom. Dureza denied the allegation. AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL JR.

COA finds no basis for ₱5-B road projects

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE COMMISSION on Audit (COA) was hard pressed to find the basis for P5 billion worth of projects funded by the road user's tax, saying these were not evaluated by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) using the established criteria.

The COA also said the allocation of P5.48 billion in special road support funds was not done in accordance with the procedures prescribed in the Road Board Operating Manual, while P28.89 million in special local road fund was improperly allocated for former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's livelihood projects.

COA FINDS A14

SC raises contempt threat vs lawmakers

By Marlen Ranoa and TJ Burgonio

THE SUPREME COURT yesterday said defiant lawmakers threatening to ignore its directive to suspend impeachment proceedings against Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez may be liable for contempt.

Court spokesperson Midas Marquez said the House committee on justice should not interpret Tuesday's status quo ante order as an attempt to torpedo moves to oust Gutierrez for allegedly sitting on corruption cases against former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

"This is only a preliminary order," Marquez said at a news briefing, adding that the magistrates rejected the constitutional mandate of the House of Representatives to impeach erring government officials.

"The court would just like to make sure the provision of the Constitution, particularly the

SC RAISES A13

'Jueteng' now under '3 Kings'

By Christian V. Esguerra and Jocelyn R. Uy

A GROUP of security officials known as the "Three Kings" has taken over the collection of gross money from "jueteng" operations under the Aquino administration, according to a list of gambling lords and their protectors prepared by a junior police officer.

Jueteng, an illegal numbers racket patronized by the poor, generates an estimated P27.7 billion in gross sales a year.

Each member of the "Three Kings" receives between P5 million and P8 million in monthly payola, according to the list.

Natalia Gam, a jueteng whistle-blower, yesterday said that the list was subsequently verified by Kmsodalang Bayan Lubon na Jueteng of retired Archbishop Oscar Cruz.

The bayanis obtained a copy of the document, which listed a total of 12 personalities that included two governors, two retired chief superintendents and a retired police senior superintendent.

'JUETENG' A6

ANTIDENGUE DRIVE

DOST develops mosquito trap

By Christine O. Avendaño

PROMPTED by persistent reports of dengue cases nationwide, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) has developed a mosquito trap that check the spread of the virus and may soon become available next month.

The trap has successfully passed laboratory tests and will be subjected to field tests in 500 households in Quezon City and 500 households in Marikina City next week, Science Secretary Mario Montejo said at a press briefing in Malacañang yesterday.

"If we get positive results which we expect, we can roll these out all over (the country)," Montejo said. "We have to be careful that what we're claiming is really validated, including implementation details."

DOST A13

Makati rocks to 50 years of The Ventures

By Pocholo Concepcion

THE SOUND that has influenced scores of musicians worldwide for 50 years sprang to life, performed by its creators, on Tuesday night in a Makati hotel.

The Ventures, the American band credited for inventing surf music, gamely played till midnight before a cheering, well-heeled crowd at the grand ballroom of Dusit Thani at the Ayala Center.

Spotted in the audience were US Ambassador Harry Thomas Jr., Chief Justice Renato Corona

MAKATI A10

'Maaaaam, may I go home'

By Terra Quiamando

IT'S NOT uncommon to hear pupils say "Mga I go home Ma'am" in public schools, especially in Metro Manila.

Good thing their homes are just a walking distance away.

Wherever nature calls, students of Bagong Barrio National High School in Caloocan City, for instance, would have to leave class and rush home to get relief.

Such is school life at the public high school, where at least 5,200

PAAAAAM A13

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

2D	6	29
3D	15	6
4D	10	12

SUPERLOTTO 6/45: 9 5 8 | 6D: 0 6 1 | 4D: 4 7 5

FOUR DIGIT: 4 1 9 1

MEGALOTTO 6/45: 6 15 20 27 32 40 — P4,500,000.00

GRAND LOTTO 6/55: 5 21 42 49 52 55 — P157,211,877.60

De Lima report out tomorrow

Officials, cops, media men among those recommended for prosecution

By Marlon Ramos

THE INVESTIGATING panel's report on a bus hijacking that left eight Hong Kong tourists dead will be submitted to President Aquino on Friday, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said yesterday.

The report is expected to contain specific names of police and government officials—as well as media personalities—to be criminally or administratively sanctioned over the Aug. 23 hostage fiasco, which resulted in the death of eight hostages as well as the hostage-taker.

De Lima, who heads the five-member investigating panel, declined to name the journalists who face possible charges.

"There are discussions and evaluation of media actions (during the siege). So media would be part of possible accountability," she told reporters.

The panel, which was given by the President until Wednesday to complete its work, failed to meet its deadline as the investigators needed two more days to go over several aspects of the probe.

De Lima said the President had agreed to wait for the final report on Friday.

"I already advised the President that we cannot force it because we still have deliberations to come in parts of the draft," De Lima said.

She said the report was already 85 percent complete and that the committee had prepared an initial draft of their findings.

"We are completing and polishing portions on the evaluation and conclusions, specifically in the accountability and the recommendations," she explained.

She said the body has yet to receive the results of the medical ballistic tests being done by forensic experts of the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation.

DE LIMA

The panel was also waiting for the analysis of the pathology and autopsy reports from leading forensic expert Dr. Raquel Fortun, she said.

The report on the ballistic tests on bullet shells recovered from the tourist bus would be available in two weeks, she said.

"But that will not prevent us from submitting this report ... We have completed the facts. They were a very detailed account and narration (of the events)," De Lima said.

The report, she said, would include testimony of the survivors as well as official accounts of the police commanders on the ground during the hostage-taking by a disbanded police officer.

Police have admitted missing repeated chances to take out the hostage-taker during the day-long crisis, which culminated in a bungled rescue bid that was broadcast live on television around the world.

One of the inquiry's tasks was to establish whether the hostages were killed by the hostage-taker, the police rescuers or other forces deployed in the area during the crisis.

De Lima has backed away from her earlier suggestions that some of the hostages could have been hit by "friendly fire," saying at least one survivor pointed to the hostage-taker as the killer.

Mr. Aquino, whose political capital has been diminished by the fiasco, said Tuesday he hoped to draw a line under the tragedy and recover some the tourist industry battered by the crisis.

"Many people are saying that what happened at the (Quirino) Grandstand was the first test of (my administration)," he said as he named a new national police chief, Director General Raul Bacalzo, to replace Director General Jesus Verzosa, who decided to retire three months early in the wake of the hostage fiasco. With AFP

United Auctioneers, Inc.
SEPTEMBER 27, 28 & 29, 2010
(MONDAY, TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY)
ALL ITEMS WILL BE PARADED ON AUCTION DAY
INSPECTION DATES:
SEPTEMBER 24, 25 & 26, 2010
ALSO AVAILABLE SUV's AND PASSENGER VAN
CATERPILLAR 320

Broadcasters told: Shape up or else . . .

By Christian V. Esguerra

SENATORS are giving members of the broadcast media a "reasonable grace period" to sort their own set of guidelines governing their conduct in conflict situations such as the botched Aug. 23 hostage rescue operation.

But Sen. Joker Arroyo said the industry should come up with a unified policy applicable to all of its members.

Manuel Arroyo: "If (Gen's) no-nukky, we will intervene and make it for them. We don't want a situation where others would say, 'We didn't subscribe to that protocol so we are not bound by it,'" he told the broadcasters in an interview.

"(We will give them a) reasonable time, but we cannot wait too long," he added.

In the Light of Truth

The Grail Message by Askim Abi

"In the Light of Truth", the Grail Message, is a classic work that offers clear and perceptive answers to questions which challenge every human being. Written by a German author between the years 1923 - 1938, it is a collection of 168 essays addressing all spheres of life ranging from God and the Universe to the Laws of Creation. It answers eternal questions such as:

What is the purpose of life on Earth ?
What happens to me when I die ?
Is religion indispensable to salvation?

In this context, the author writes: "I wish to fill the gaps which so far have remain unanswered in the souls of men as burning questions, and which never leave any serious thinker in peace."

To perceive the values within the simplicity and unswerving logic of the Grail Message, no specific type of education is required. Age, sex, race and religious background present no barriers, unless they are self-imposed. However, reading the Grail Message requires an open mind and a seeking spirit.

For more details contact us at :
2/F Goldwin Building, No. 2750 Zamala St.
Poblacion, Makati City
Telephone No.: (02) 5423298

www.in-the-light-of-truth.net
info@in-the-light-of-truth.net
Mobile: (0917) 577-9750

Display and sale at:
Manila International Book Fair 2010
Booth No. 66

The Great
ACTIVE GLOBAL SOURCING
Sale!
Extended until September 30, 2010 only!
active global sourcing, inc.

Noynoy cancels trip to Brussels

By Norman Bordadora

PRESIDENT AQUINO has canceled his planned attendance at the Asia-Europe Meeting in Brussels in early October.

Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said it was agreed in a meeting of concerned government agencies that it would be foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo who would lead the Philippine delegation to that event.

"There was a consensus to limit the (Presidential) trips and to prioritize them. He never also made us understand that some of the world leaders would not be attending," Lacierda said in Malacañang.

"The value of going there would be diminished if some of the world leaders won't be going as well," he added.

President Aquino said on Tuesday that he would not go on a trip abroad if he didn't think it would result in tangible benefits for the country.

"I wouldn't go on any foreign trips without direct benefits for the people and I would endure here there or land and in land before I start mentioning what exactly these benefits are," Mr. Aquino told reporters in Cotabato.

So far, President Aquino has lined up a trip to the United States in late September to attend the United Nations General Assembly and the signing of the Millennium Challenge Corp.'s $434-million grant. He will also attend business meetings in both the east and west coasts.

Romulo, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima and Trade Secretary Greg Domingo will be coming here in his entourage.

Reds all set to collect 'fees' in polls–AFP

COMMUNIST REBELS are reported to try to cash in on the upcoming Oct. 25 barangay elections by extorting money from candidates through their alleged "permit to campaign" (PTC) scam.

Candidates should beware of attempts by the communist New People's Army (NPA), the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, to get closer to pay so-called PTC fees in exchange for unimpeded access to the flying votes, said a military spokesperson.

Many candidates in the provinces are forced to pay the money to avoid being harassed by NPA rebels during the campaign.

But while issuing the warning, Brig. Gen. Jose Mabanta Jr., chief of the Armed Forces Civil Relations Service, said the NPA has had limited success with its extortion racket.

"During the last presidential elections (on May 10) we are happy and pleased that the local governments or were not successful in their (extortion) activities," Mabanta said.

He said this was because the strength of the CPP/NPA has gone down drastically so that its ability to generate funds has been greatly diminished.

Mabanta said Armed Forces operational units will be meeting today to finalize plans for securing the elections.

The Commission on Elections traditionally deputizes the military and the police during elections to secure the polling precincts.

The gun ban starts on Sept. 25, although the campaign period does not start until Oct. 14. Dona Pazcolagcon

Priceless moments.

Powered by Citi.

Use your Citi MasterCard® anytime, anywhere worldwide. A minimum single-receipt purchase of P500 automatically entitles you to one raffle entry and a chance to win. Get 10 times more raffle entries for purchases abroad. Two ways to win:

WIN BACK YOUR PURCHASE*

Get back the amount you spent* on your winning entry and spend your winning cash credits on anything you want. You can be one of the 50 lucky winners every month!

WIN YOUR DREAM HOLIDAY FOR TWO

Get the chance to win a free holiday for two (2) with three (3) dream destinations to choose from in the grand draw.

Use your Citi MasterCard now and get a chance to live that priceless moment. No Citi Card yet? Apply now. Text Citi Card to 2600.

citi citi citi

The most rewarding cards in town.

citibank®

MasterCard

CLEANERGY get it

Renewable. Responsible. Respectful.

By using carbon-free sources such as water and geothermal, Cleanergy helps in sustaining the Earth's resources for the future.

www.cleanergy.com.ph

Currently available to distribution utilities and directly connected industries.

AboitizPower

A Better Future

IN THE SPIRIT OF PEACE AND RECONCILIATION...

We issue this appeal to His Excellency PRESIDENT BENIGNO "PNoy" S. AQUINO III, to GRANT AMNESTY to the active and former officers and enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines who stood against the previous administration.

Their battle cry – CHANGE – has coalesced into the bigger struggle of millions of other patriotic and freedom-loving Filipinos: the fight against corruption, electoral fraud and other evils of bad governance.

This appeal is not to encourage impunity for their actions in the Oakwood incident of 2003; in the Marine standoff of 2006; nor for those in The Peninsula Manila siege of November 2007; and several other related incidents. These soldiers have already suffered the consequences of their actions. They have paid their dues. We believe that it is the time for them to rebuild their lives, and in the process, contribute to rebuilding this nation.

For some time now, previous administrations have pursued acts of reconciliation with avowed enemies of the State like the CPP/NPA/NDF, the MNLF, and the MILF. It would only be just if the same conciliatory approach is extended to the very same soldiers who have devoted most of their lives in the service of our country and people.

President Noy, we believe that GRANTING AMNESTY to these soldiers is not only acceptable, but also timely in view of the Government's agenda of peace and reconciliation.

As we join together in this call, we hereby affix our signatures:

Panahon na para mag-split.

New CONDURA Prima

Split-type Air Conditioners

Built Tough.
- 5-step Anti-Rust Protection System
- Durable painted steel outdoor casing
- Heavy duty rotary compressors

Energy Efficient.
- High Energy Efficiency Ratio
- Sleep mode
- Low power LED display
- On-Off timer function

Clean Air.
- Active Carbon Electrostatic and Bio Filter
- Eliminates odors, pollens and harmful gas
- Removes dust, smoke and allergens.

Gawa ng Pilipino. Para sa Pilipino.

CONDURA
The better choice. Made even better.

A quality product of
Concepcion-Carrier Air Conditioning Company

Visit our website at www.ccac.com.ph

SLIMMERS WORLD

BUY 1 MONTH GET 1 MONTH FREE!

PLUS! Personal Training and all the Latest Aerobics!

SPECIAL OFFER
FOR THE FIRST 25 SLOTS TODAY!

MEN CAN HAVE GREAT SKIN TOO!

FREE DIAMOND ULTRAPEEL TREATMENT
BOOK NOW!

Great Body, Great Skin.

I Lost 44 lbs.!
Won the Great Body Contest.
Christine Hermoso

"All our full programmes are guaranteed!"

CALL NOW FOR YOUR FREE CONSULTATION!!!

- NO MONTHLY DUES OR LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP!
- NO JOINING FEES!
- CREDIT CARD OPTIONS AT 0%
- MEDICAL SUPERVISION AT ALL CENTERS

BUY 15 TREATMENTS GET 15 FREE!

SPECIAL OFFER
FOR THE FIRST 25 SLOTS TODAY!

Diamond Facial

FACIAL WITH DIAMOND ULTRAPEEL
for men & women
to give you a flawless skin.

CALL OUR ONE - STOP SUPER CENTERS FOR FITNESS, SKIN, BODY AND FACE.

FITNESS HOTLINE: 536-3333
SKIN HOTLINE: 525-8771
MOBILE NUMBER: 091- SLIMMERS (754663771)

www.slimmersworld.com.ph * inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

Tripartite talks on judiciary's budget sought

By Michael Lim Ubac

CAMARINES SUR Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. yesterday joined Davao Representative Karlo Nograles in calling for the convening of the Judicial Executive Legislative Advisory and Consultative Council (JELACC) to quickly address the threat of a judicial revolt.

The proposal to convene the tripartite body came amid a threat by some judges to go on mass leave to protest Malacañang's decision to cut in half the budget for the judiciary in 2011.

Malacañang's proposed budget for the judiciary is only P14.3 billion, against the P27.1 billion it is asking for.

"Previous attempts in decades past the judiciary's 'budget issues' within a tripartite body ended in compromises that quelled court officials grumbling for bigger appropriations," said Andaya in a statement.

Andaya, who was the budget secretary of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, recalled that the judiciary's budget was raised twice after the Palace, Supreme Court and congressional leaders addressed the judiciary's requests for more funds in several JELACC meetings.

Judicial budget increase

During the Arroyo administration, the then President Macapagal-Arroyo and Chief Justice Reynato Puno attended JELACC meetings with House and Senate leaders, which resulted in the increase of the judicial budget in 2009 and 2010, according to Andaya.

"In a similar, spirit Malacañang's initiative, the judicial branch's budget was raised by P500 million for fiscal year 2009 and by P928 million for 2010, said Andaya.

He said the request by the Chief Executive for a higher budget for the coming fiscal year is intended to both legislative chambers before the House could vote on the general appropriations bill.

He said this was done by administration to Congress what is traditionally called as certain items detailing changes to the proposed budget.

"The remark was that the augmentation was not treated as a congressional earmark but as part of the original budget proposal," Andaya said.

Breaking the impasse

He suggested that the issue approach be used in breaking the present impasse between Malacañang and the high court.

Andaya said the tripartite approach would ensure that "any additional budget is rightfully calibrated, with the demands supported by documents at hand."

Pangilinan has called on President Aquino to convene the JELACC to modernize the judicial system and expedite cases more swiftly.

"Without an effective and modernized system of justice, we will never achieve a healthy respect for the rule of law," he said.

Meanwhile, Sen. Joker Arroyo yesterday cautioned Mr. Aquino against meeting with Chief Justice Renato Corona to discuss the dissatisfaction in the judicial ranks over the drastic cut in the judiciary's budget.

"It does not add to the dignity of the presidency that the President should discuss strategies meant for with the Chief Justice," he said of the planned encounter. With a report from Christine Figueroa

Panasonic
PABX Telephone System
• Call Transfer
• Music On Hold
• Call Privacy
• Intercom
CD SYSTEMS
KILL ARTHRITIS IN 5 MINUTES
FOR FAST MEDICAL TURNAROUND
www.farastmed.net

Catholic schools' job is to produce saints—Bishop Soc

By Ed Yap

THE MARK of a good Catholic school is not the capacity to produce celebrities, politicians or businessmen, Archbishop Socrates Villegas reminded the new president and new chancellor of De La Salle University (DLSU) on Tuesday.

Rather, he said, "it is the ability to create saints."

Quite a call unites for DLSU's new president, Fmr. Narciso G. Reginio, and its new chancellor, Bro. Ricardo G. Laguda, who were formally installed Thursday night.

"The duty of a Catholic school is not to produce celebrities—it is to produce holiness in society," Villegas said during the Mass celebrated an hour before Reginio's and Laguda's investiture at the Most Blessed Sacrament Chapel on the university's Taft Avenue campus.

"Let La Salle produce not just good businessmen. Let La Salle produce not just good public officials. Let La Salle produce saints," Villegas told the two, who assumed the posts vacated by Bro. Armin Luistro, now education secretary.

"Today's youth need to be reminded that they have souls. We need to remind them that there is eternal life," he added in his homily.

Reginio and Laguda were appointed the 21st president and third chancellor, respectively, of DLSU, which will celebrate its centennial in June 2011.

Chief Justice Renato Corona administered the oath of office to Reginio in the ceremony attended by members of the DLSU's Board of Trustees, faculty, personnel and students.

An education graduate, Reginio has over 30 years of administrative experience in the university system.

Laguda finished philosophy at the Ateneo De Manila University and took his doctorate degree in Educational Leadership and Management at DLSU.

For Laguda, Villegas' call was not necessarily an impossible task.

"It's only a call order when people think that to be a saint means to be perfect," he told reporters after the ceremony.

"But saints are not perfect. They're an ensemble sites," Laguda said. What distinguishes saints from ordinary sinners is that they are able to change themselves for the better and to give most of themselves to society, he said.

Reginio said he would also continue Luistro's efforts to make the university less elitist and more accessible to poorer segments of the population. Tuition and miscellaneous fees at DLSU can reach over P60,000 per semester in a "bi-modular" (three-semester) year, depending on the course.

"The goal is to have 20 percent of the student population supported by full scholarships. Currently it stands at 10-16 percent," he said. This way, Reginio said DLSU would be able to stay true to its commitment to serving the Filipino people.

HBW White Glue
Strong quantity. Gloss papers, wood, leather, cloth & etc.
AVAILABLE AT
ALL BOOKSTORES, WHOLESALERS & PROVINCIAL OUTLETS
contact number: 362-7000 loc 62 Fax: 362-7075 Hotline: 09228007000

Plane baby's mother now in NBI custody

By Marlon Ramos

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) yesterday took into custody a woman who purportedly abandoned her newborn son in a trash bin inside the lavatory of a trial Air plane over the weekend.

According to NBI director Magnaggal Tabdoli, the woman was "picked up" by NBI agents from her house in Ipsajan in northern Luzon.

Gatdula refused to name the women as the NBI was still investigating the recovery of baby George Francis.

"It is confirmed that our regional office has picked her up in Ipsajan. She was convinced by her sibling to go with them to NBI main office for investigation," Tabdula told reporters.

Aside from questioning, he said the woman would undergo psychiatric evaluation to determine her mental and emotional condition.

THE USE OF UNLICENSED SOFTWARE HAS HARMED OUR BUSINESS.
PILIPINAS ANTI-PIRACY TEAM
CALAMBA SHINEI INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES CORPORATION
BLOCK 6, LOT 2, CALAMBA PREMIERE INTERNATIONAL PARK, BARRIO PRINZA, BRGY. BATINO, CALAMBA CITY, LAGUNA

DON'T LET IT HAPPEN TO YOU!

On 29 January 2009, our company, Calamba Shinei Industry Philippines Corporation, was raided by operatives of the Philippine National Police, Anti-Fraud and Commercial Crimes Division of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-AFCCD-CIDG) for using pirated software in our business operations.

By using unlicensed software, we have placed our company at risk of legal action, business losses and humiliation!

We would like to apologize to the manufacturer of the software programs that we used without proper license for any harm and damage we may have caused. We would also like to apologize to all our customers for our wrongdoing.

STOP THIS IRRESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR NOW!

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) must be respected. We urge all company officers and business owners to adhere to the IPR laws by proactively ensuring that there is no pirated or unlicensed software on your premises. Software piracy hurts the Philippines' local software industry. It causes loss of thousands of local jobs, millions in local wages, investments in new technologies, as well as tax revenues for the Philippine government.

Unfortunately, it is now through our irresponsible actions that we have learned the penalty and consequences of using pirated and unlicensed software.

We support all enforcement actions of the Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team (PAPT) to curb software piracy. We encourage businesses to learn from our mistakes and stop this irresponsible behavior now.

Report piracy to the PAPT. Call the PAPT Secretariat at (02) 692-9516 or visit www.papt.org.ph.

Pag-Ibig execs, employees told to report housing acquisitions

By Tonnie Dreza
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO – The officials and employees of the Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig Fund) have been ordered to report in writing their acquisition of property in any housing projects of the Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corp.

Emma Linda Peria, officer in charge of the Pag-Ibig Fund, gave the order in a memorandum dated Sept. 13.

In the same memorandum, she cited the published claims of Cartier Rep. Hjubic Barzaga Jr. that he had obtained information that former Pag-Ibig executive "were rewarded with investments in Globe Asiatique's Gil Towers in Edsa, Mandaluyong City."

Congress probe

Barzaga is among several lawmakers who have called for a congressional investigation of possible irregularities in Asiatique's Xevera subdivisions in Bacolor and Mabalacat town in Pampanga.

Documents showed that Globe Asiatique used spurious borrowers to facilitate the release of housing loans worth almost P7 billion for nearly 9,000 houses.

Hundreds of these houses have been found to be unoccupied. More than 2,000 were not completed or had deficiencies although the loans were already taken out.

Several cubs of the national savings and shelter financing agency were here to help Globe Asiatique take out many loans in almost three years, documents showed.

In her memorandum, Peria instructed personnel to report under oath to the agency's own premises for internal audit group not later than Sept. 15.

Strict compliance

She required the personnel to state the following information in their report: Location of property, transfer certificate of title number, amount of purchase, source of funds and date of purchase.

The memorandum was for "strict and immediate compliance."

Aside from GA Towers, Globe Asiatique has condominium and housing projects in Hood, Quezon City; Angeles City; Iloilo City; Valenzuela City and Pampanga.

The scheme of selling spurious borrowers has unwitted people from as far as Cambodia, a handwritten affidavit by a woman who claimed to be formerly part of the scheme showed.

The woman, whose name is being withheld for security reasons, said in her sing, 3 affidavit that her participation in looking for housing loan applicants and in compiling their documents began in April 2009.

P5.8B loss

She said she was drawn to it through a friend whose boyfriend asked help to get the applicants for a fee of P500 each month.

According to her, the man introduced her to his boss, who was one of Globe Asiatique's deputized loan consultants.

The woman said she was instructed to get signatures of people, some them that their names would be "loaned" after two years and promise them they would get P1,000 for agreeing to sign the housing loan documents.

"Later, they were informed that the applications were rejected but I discovered lately that those were approved because they were receiving monthly bills [for mortgages]," she said in the affidavit written in Filipino.

LANDMARK
TRINOMA
Presents
AUGUST MOONCAKE FORTUNE FESTIVAL
We offer the most complete assortment of mooncakes. Get lucky, buy mooncakes, share and get your endless luck at the all landmarks!
Shangri-La hotel
NEW WORLD HOTEL
Manila Hotel
HEN LIN
Chinese outlet for Meals and Platters now available

LOCATION LOCATION LOCATION
GRAND CENTRAL RESIDENCES
EDSA corner Sultan St.
(Housing MRT Share), Mandaluyong City
NEW
Own a unit for as low as ₱9,970 monthly
18 minutes to North EDSA and Ortigas Taft
13 minutes to Pasay and Makati Avenue
3 minutes to Cubao and Araneta
CITYLAND
812-1222 687-3333
567-1111 242-1212
www.cityland.net

JOB
FACTORY SALE

Halloween TRIP & TREATS for your BIRTHDAY
As our birthday gift to you, get a FREE DOMESTIC TICKET for your next travel.
Selling Period: September 16 – 30, 2010
Travel Period: September 16 – November 30, 2010
- Birthday Celebrants from September 16 – November 30, 2010 can travel free; just purchase a revenue ticket between September 16 – 30, 2010.
- Issuance of free-of-charge (FOC) ticket may be claimed through any PAL ticket office. Present your revenue ticket to avail of your FOC ticket.
- FOC ticket will reflect the same route and class of service of purchased ticket. Travel Blackout Period: October 28 – November 2, 2010.
- Celebrants need to present proof of birthday.
- Fares and surcharges are refundable by submitting the unused revenue and FOC tickets together. Penalties apply based on the fare purchased.
- Travel conditions apply.
For promo details log on to www.philippineairlines.com
Book and buy through www.philippineairlines.com using MasterCard or Visa credit card or Bancnet ATM card. Or, purchase tickets at any PAL ticket office or travel agencies.
You may also call PAL Reservations Manila (02) 855-8888; Cebu (032) 340-8181; Davao (082) 221-8915.
Philippine Airlines
WITH US, YOU'RE ALWAYS #1
www.philippineairlines.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Work Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting on September 2, 2010
2. Pre-Bid Conference	October 1, 2010 @ 10:00 AM
3. Bid Opening	October 7, 2010
4. Post Qualification	October 8, 2010
5. Award	October 11, 2010

Bacalzo denies he's on the take from 'jueteng' lords

By Alcuin Papa

"WHO IS Sandra Cam? I don't know her."

This was the comment of newly installed Philippine National Police Director General Jesus Versoza on the claims of Cam, a "jueteng" whistle-blower, in a meeting TV interview on Wednesday that he was receiving jueteng payola.

In a talk with reporters, Bacalzo said he had yet to watch Cam's TV interview. "I just heard that she was first in the first place. I don't know Sandra Cam. I have not met her," Bacalzo said.

Interviewed on ANC's "Headstart," Cam, who once appeared before the Senate on hearings on the illegal numbers racket, said she wondered why President Aquino appointed Bacalzo as PNP chief.

"Why is it that the PNP chief that he (Aquino) appointed is on the take for jueteng?" Cam asked.

She recalled that during the 2001 Senate hearings, fellow whistle-blower Wilfredo "Boy" Mayor mentioned that a certain "Boy Tanglad," who has since been identified as businessman Eddie Gonzo, delivered jueteng money to Bacalzo.

Cam said she didn't know how much Bacalzo was allegedly getting. "I don't know (how much) because I don't know this guy (she) remembered his name (means Boy Tanglad) is the one delivering money to him (Bacalzo). You can check with the Senate. I think it was Boy Mayor who named him."

Bacalzo also claimed he was summoned to Camp Crame for the past nine years, implying that he could not have conducted jueteng payola while assigned in Cagayan.

Once in Crame, he said he was first assigned as director of the Security Agencies and Guards Supervision Division.

"I just don't know what is the connection of this office to jueteng," Bacalzo said.

From 2001 to 2008, Bacalzo was secretary to the PNP's directorial staff, which shuffles papers within the PNP organization.

After his term and half-year stint at the directorial staff, Bacalzo said he was assigned as director of the Headquarters Support Service, then as camp commander of Camp Crame, headquarters of the PNP.

Bacalzo challenged the whistle-blower to take her allegations to the "proper forum." He also said he was willing to submit to an investigation.

Sotto was talked to a restaurant in La Loma, Quezon City, on October 2009. Mayor was killed in February 2010 in Pasay City after coming out of seclusion.

Last week, Senator Aquino announced the name of Bacalzo as the new PNP chief replacing Jesus Verzosa, a group called "Samahan ng mga Tunay na Tanglad" (Association of Real Tanglad) sent an open letter to Aquino opposing Camp Crame, headquarters of the PNP.

The officers said they opposed the appointment of Bacalzo to the post of PNP chief. They claimed Bacalzo was involved in gambling and illegal drugs.

The Bacalzo is involved in illegal gambling. What is unknown to many is the police blotter in the Deputy Director General Bacalzo manned money from jueteng. A certain "Boy Tanglad" used to go to his office in Camp Crame to give a huge amount of protection money. "Boy Tanglad" is a known jueteng lord. The once killed last year in a restaurant in Quezon City." the letter said in Pilipino.

Pampanga bishop admits some priests beneficiaries of 'jueteng'

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO— Pampanga Archbishop Paciano Aniceto yesterday said some priests in the Archdiocese of San Fernando are "relatives, close friends and beneficiaries" of "jueteng" operators.

"With this cultural situation, the [archdiocese] has turned a pitiful and [sometimes] sinful instrument in support of the [Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines] guidelines on the morality of gambling," Aniceto said in a text message to the Inquirer.

He did not reply when asked how many of the 100 priests in the province were receiving jueteng money. Former Sen. Aquilino (Nene) L. Pimentel Jr. once called Pampanga the "fiefdom of jueteng."

"Those engaged in the operation of jueteng are also members of parish committees," Aniceto said, without giving names.

"As parishioners, they feel that they have an obligation to donate something to the parish during fiestas and other celebrations," he said.

Pampanga Auxiliary Bishop Pablo Virgilio David said priests in Pampanga in 2005 adopted the antigambling position of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP).

"[We] made our own anti-jueteng pastoral [letter], that we would not collect from publicly known gambling lords even for church or charity projects," David said.

Gray area

"Whether or not we would receive unsolicited amounts being voluntarily donated by publicly known gambling lords is where we have a gray area. We did not reach a consensus over the issue," he said.

Those known to receive donations from jueteng financiers in Pampanga are the money for various seasons, according to some priests consulted by the Inquirer.

Foreign trips

Some used the money to build or repair chapels or churches. Others admit money for foreign trips or to support their extravagant lifestyles or vices like gambling, the priests said.

David, Fr. Martin Bonjoc and former Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio earlier said that to the governor, the area mentioned Small Town Lottery (STL) was serving as a front for jueteng.

The illegal numbers racket, they said, was robbing the poor of their hard-earned income and was corrupting politicians, policemen, court personnel and media workers.

Panlilio, a Catholic priest, served as governor from June 2007 to June 2010, several priests campaigned against jueteng by encouraging their parishioners to stop betting on the illegal numbers racket.

In a pastoral statement in January 2005, the CBCP said that "to its illegal basis, especially jueteng, gambling has bred a clandestine network of operation that feeds itself on the hardearned millions of pesos lost to gambling especially by the poor."

The CBCP urged priests to "refrain from soliciting or receiving funds from illegal and illegitimate gambling so as not to promote a culture of gambling. With reports from Gerwaida Reyes-Estrope, Inquirer Central Luzon

'Jueteng' now under 'Three Kings'

From page A1

The so-called "Three Kings" are composed of an official of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) clearly identified with President Aquino, another retired chief superintendent and a ranking police official in active service.

Willing to testify

Cam said the junior officers based in Camp Crame, who is willing to testify against the "Three Kings."

"He's fed up," Cam, a key witness for Cinco group, said the lawyer in an interview yesterday. "He can't bear seeing police officials getting jueteng money left and right while the President proclaims a push toward righteousness (Matuwid na daan)."

But Cam made it clear that jueteng payola had yet to reach the Office of the President in Malacañang.

Over the weekend, Cam revealed that two of Mr. Aquino's trusted officials overseeing security matters were receiving a minimum of P1 million in jueteng payola.

At least five more officials in the "former subalterns" of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) clearly identified with President Aquino, another retired chief superintendent and a ranking police official in active service.

Ex-big woman

The police informant approached Cinco's group two months ago through Cam, apparently owing to her network within the Philippine National Police during her time as a jueteng "big woman."

The two met in a secluded location in a condominium in Makati to vacate how the information could go about making public everything he knew about jueteng operations.

The junior police officer apparently possessed damaging pieces of information such as how jueteng money placed in boxes were delivered to his PNP bosses in their offices every week.

Cam said the informant had promised to come out in the open and testify once the measure ensuring the safety of whistle-blowers was passed into law.

As per the junior police officer's account, jueteng payola goes to the Three Kings through a consolidation of the Intelligence Group of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), who receives collections nationwide from a civilian with the initials "E.E."

E.E. reportedly took the place of "Boy Tanglad," a known collector for illegal gambling who was gunned down in Manila last year.

In the list, the informant identified 10 cities and provinces from Northern Luzon and Cagayan Valley to Central Luzon, Metro Manila and Western Visayas where jueteng operations were supposedly active.

In Cagayan Valley, operations were allegedly handled by the brother of a chief superintendent. Jueteng activities in Pasay City, Parañaque, Muntinlupa and San Pedro, Laguna, are supposedly under the jurisdiction of a newly retired chief superintendent.

In Bicolol, the document claimed jueteng was operating under the guise of the government-sanctioned Small Town Lottery. The alleged point man was a relative of incumbent lawmaker.

Interior Undersecretary Rico E. Puno earlier admitted receiving reports that jueteng operations are making an audience on how the underground lottery could flourish under the new administration, particularly in Northern Luzon and Southern Tagalog.

But Puno refused to identify the operators, saying they violated no law.

More cops on the take

At a press conference at the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines in Manila, Cruz yesterday said the growing list of officials receiving jueteng bribes recently belonged to the PNP.

He said there were more police officers receiving jueteng bribes than those who were out.

Cruz disclosed that he met with "Team Republic" senator of the Kiwanis ng Bayan Labas sa Jueteng on Tuesday afternoon to "compare notes."

"In that meeting, I came to know that there are many more police people involved in this matter, and I would like this to be very clear. Most of those people are in the PNP," Cruz said.

He declined to identify the PNP members, saying it affects their jueteng operations, saying the executive department must also do its job to uncover the truth.

Cruz said his group was hopeful that unlike retired PNP Director General Jesus Versoza, his successor, Chief Director Jesus Verzosa, Jr. Napoles Pimentel Jr. that Lubao, Pampanga, "is the fiefdom of jueteng."

More draws seen

In urging the administration to look into the ranks of the police, Cruz insisted that the amount of jueteng payoffs was gradually increasing as the January elections, scheduled for Oct. 25, draw near.

With the forthcoming election period, jueteng was expected to become more active, with at least four draws in a day, according to Cruz.

"The very productive months so far as jueteng is concerned is before elections, to raise campaign funds and after, to pay for deficits incurred in the past elections," he said.

Appointments body to look into Robredo's 'acting' status

By MYC. Echivarren Jr.

THE COMMISSION on Appointments (CA) will look into the "acting" status of Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo to prevent President Aquino from using it as a ruse for his choice to occupy the congressional body's seventy.

Sen. Panfilo 'Ping' Lacson said Congress has to clarify the responsibilities and powers of secretaries appointed in an acting capacity to determine their accountability and whether they should be exempted from congressional confirmation.

He said it is now possible that the President might decide to appoint all his secretaries in an acting capacity in order to bypass congressional scrutiny.

Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda reacted and that is the cabal list of appointees that the inquiry submitted to Congress, all cabinet appointees were on an ad interim basis and subject to CA review with the exception of Robredo, Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz and Environment Secretary Ramon Paje.

Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano said the designation of Robredo on an acting capacity has raised questions on the motives of the President.

Corrections

IN THE SEPT. 11 ISSUE, a front page story, "Baby found in trash bag inside plane's toilet"—misspelled the name of the Hamkaad Capitol Regional director of the Department of Social Welfare and Development. The director's name is Bella Rivera—not Bueno.

* * *

THE SAME ISSUE appeared in a front page story in the box, 14 tones, "Chocolate baby wasn't by wanting of a loving mother."

* * *

Readers may send their requests or corrections of factual errors in writing to the ring Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 2021 Publication Center, Ayala Avenue corner Makati-de Street, Makati City, use fax nos. 897-47-03 loc. e-mail address: [redacted]@inquirer.com.ph.

Complainants must furnish their names, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses. [redacted]@inquirer.com.ph or fax No. 897-47-03 loc. 2000. The Publisher, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 897-4000 local 4000.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, September 16, 2010
24th Week in Ordinary Time
Cornelius and Cyprian

1st Reading: 1 Cor 11:17-34
Gospel: Lk 7:36-50

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to share his meal, so he went to the Pharisee's house and sat at table with the others. And it happened that a woman of the town, who was known as a sinner, heard that he was in the Pharisee's house. She brought an alabaster jar of perfume and stood behind him, at his feet, weeping. She wet his feet with tears, she dried them with her hair and kissed his feet and poured the perfume on them.

The Pharisee who had invited Jesus was watching and thought, "If this man were a prophet, he would know what sort of person is touching him, and that woman a sinner."

Then Jesus spoke to the Pharisee and said, "Simon, I have something to tell you." He answered, "Speak, master." And Jesus said, "Two people were in debt to the same creditor. One owed him five hundred silver coins, and the other fifty. As they were unable to pay him back, he generously canceled the debts of both. Now who do you think will love him more?"

Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, who was forgiven more." And Jesus said, "You are right." And turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? We came into my house but you refused me water to wash my feet, but she has washed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You did not welcome me with a kiss, but she has not stopped kissing my feet since she came in. You provided no oil for my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. That is why I tell you, her sins, her many sins, are forgiven, because of her great love. But one to whom little is forgiven, has little love." Then Jesus said to the woman, "Your sins are forgiven." The others sitting with him at the table began to wonder, "Who can this man be to forgive sins?" But Jesus again spoke to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Commentary

"Whatever Pharisee one may be and whatever self-righteous mask any reprobate has used from which to attempt to hide it, nothing then, for would know what kind of sinful life she lived."

Jesus went to his self-seeking the erratic adult the poor, holding up those to pride. Giving the sinner a fresh start and healing.

Read Ch Science: [illegible] safety regardless of how much effort is needed for the attempt.

Quotation: Correspondence Newsletter, by J. Barnes & J.P. Hilton, Mercy Centre Ltd, [illegible] Ref. Mercy Ltd, Centre Ltd, [illegible] Tel. [illegible] Fax No. [illegible] E-mail: [redacted]@mercy.org Website: [redacted] [redacted] and individuals] at http://[redacted].org/[redacted] Mercy centre in the Philippines.

Progress on MDGs worse than gov't admits

By TJ Burgonio

THE POVERTY situation in the Philippines is "much worse" than the government is prepared to admit as its 2010 progress report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the congressional Social Watch Philippines (SWP) said yesterday.

In its alternative report to the government's "Fourth Progress Report on the MDGs 2010", the SWP said there are more poor Filipinos now than 10 years ago when the country set off on its MDGs.

In its own report entitled "Wanting the Numbers, Losing the Way: The Other MDG Report 2010," the SWP said poverty declined from 40.3 percent in 1991 to 30 percent in 2003, but now shouldn't go to 22.9 percent in 2009.

Economic Planning Secretary Cayetano Paderanga had admitted as much in the official report.

But the SWP said the situation in 2010 is probably worse. "Considering the impact of the global crisis in 2008-2009 and the natural disasters of 2009, the poverty situation could only have gotten worse," said SWP convenor Isagani Serrano, an executive of the Philippine Social Science Institute Movement.

Financing gap

Another SWP lead convenor, former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Solita Monsod, blamed the financing gap for the countries poor response to the poverty situation.

"An MDG-sensitive budget will reverse the inequalities highlighted in the shadow report," she said.

Serrano and Monsod presented the SWP's "shadow report" to Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile and Senate Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. at the Balcony Penthouse complex in Quezon City.

President Aquino is set to present the government's official report on the MDGs at a summit of world leaders during the United Nations General Assembly in New York later this month.

Minimum commitments

The MDGs are a set of minimum commitments to eradicate poverty, achieve universal primary education, promote gender equality in education, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, combat HIV/AIDS and ensure environmental sustainability by 2015.

Serrano said the official report was "inspirational" as its good-by-goal analysis and solutions.

"But after all is said and done, we are still left wondering why numbers don't seem to add up and reflect the deterioration of the national situation," he said.

Like poverty, the quality of education at "crisis levels," as thanks to the low net enrollment rate, and moderate cohort survival rate and completion rate, according to SWP.

The country scored high on promoting gender equality in education, and on reducing child mortality. But it missed only the goal of improving maternal health were at a good risk, SWP said.

'Problematic'

Progress on combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases was on the whole positive, but decentralization of some of MDG/HIV remained "problematic," according to SWP.

The SWP said the country's progress in ensuring environmental sustainability was "high on all counts." Results in an increase in forest cover and expansion of protected areas. The decline in land fertility and forest quality, however, has yet to be reversed and reversed, it said.

BDO

Business Banking

With BDO, Zest-O Corporation soars to new heights.

BDO Business Banking.

Providing solutions that propel companies to succeed, grow and diversify.

Having BDO as its partner, Zest-O not only managed to become one of the market leaders in the beverage category, but also to venture into other industries, notably air travel.

BDO provides working capital for the company's day-to-day operations, terms loans for financing major equipment purchases and cash management solutions for more secure cash collections and a more convenient disbursement process.

BDO Business Banking. Helping your business rise to the next level.

For inquiries, contact BDO Customer Service:
(632) 631-8000 • 1-800-10-631-8000 (PLDT Toll Free)
1-855-1-631-8000 (Digitel Toll Free) / [redacted]@bdo.com.ph

We find ways

www.bdo.com.ph

Across the NATION

Pacquiao, environmentalists helpless vs Sarangani coal plant

DAVAO CITY—It is one opponent Manny Pacquiao can't knock out.

The coal-fired power plant in Pacquiao's home province, Sarangani, is nearing completion and it appears no one, not even Manny Pacquiao' mom Dionisia Boxer, could stop it.

Edmar Ibrila, chief of the Department of Energy's oil industry management division, said the coal-fired plant has been commissioned to supply 300 megawatts of electricity to southern Mindanao.

Superiors, in need of a stable supply of power for their businesses, have expressed concern over Pacquiao's entry into the fray. The boxer-turned-politician has agreed to become a poster boy for the campaign against coal-fired power plants, one of the clients' concern of electricity.

But Ibrila said there was nothing Pacquiao, "now a congressman, or anyone else could do to stop the project.

Ibrila said the project is already contemplated despite intense opposition from the clerics of Oriental.

He said the plant, being built by Coral Holdings, would help ease the shortage of electricity in Mindanao. Coral Holdings is a corporation that counts among its owners the Aboitiz Group and the family of Sarangani Gov. Miguel Dominguez.

Ibrila said power outages in Mindanao are the height of the El Niño because a wake-up call for energy officials that too much dependence on hydropower isn't good.

"It's unfortunate,while because Mindanao gets 53 percent of its total power requirements from hydropower," he said.

He said while Mindanao could count on at least 1,862 megawatts of electricity mostly from hydropower, it still needs new power plants because its current demand for 1,241 megawatts was expected to grow by at least 4.3 percent every year.

By 2017, he said, Mindanao would require 860 megawatts more of power.

"Everything will be falling in together," said Ibrila. Gerard Jan Lucero, Inquirer Mindanao

Resumption of talks with MILF seen in November 'or earlier'

DAVAO CITY—The government's top peace negotiator yesterday said formal talks with separatist Moro rebels were likely to start earlier than expected.

Teresita Deles, presidential peace adviser, said the talks could start earlier than November.

The talks were suspended after the Supreme Court rejected a deal to expand an autonomous region for Muslims in Mindanao that its opponents said was tantamount to a partition of the country.

They were also held in abeyance to pave the way for the transition from the Arroyo to the Aquino administration.

Waiting for KL

Deles told reporters during leadership summit ceremonies at the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) that government was just waiting for Kuala Lumpur's go signal to resume formal talks.

Malaysia is hosting the talks and playing the role of mediator.

"We are ready, our panel is ready," she said.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) earlier announced it has formed its peace panel and was also ready to sit in the negotiating table.

Deles said as far as the government was concerned, there was no more hindrance to the resumption of the negotiations.

No late for Malaysian Prime Minister in a visit on Monday expressed willingness to continue to assist the peace process," she said.

Early schedule

Deles said government and MILF representatives would meet this week to discuss matters related to the resumption of the talks.

"We're looking at the tentative exemption to start before November, probably earlier," she said.

Deles said President Aquino wanted to sign a peace deal with the MILF not only for the sake of ending the negotiations but to bring a kind of development and progress to Mindanao that could "also be felt on the ground."

The Aquino administration, she said, would do this by also boosting on good governance, health and sustainable development in Mindanao, particularly in areas torn by conflict.

"The conflict areas should not be left behind," Deles said.

Anti-War

Leaders Awosme, newly reinstalled MinDA chair who took over lawyer Jesse Dureza, said development projects could help achieve peace in Mindanao.

Awosme on Dureza's quick action for the president soon after her entire arrested her of having an anti-Muslim line.Said she displayed when she campaigned against the inclusion of some Muslim areas in the then proposed Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development (SPCPD).

SPCPD was a body meant to oversee peace and development efforts in Mindanao under the 1996 peace pact between the Philippine government and the then main separatist guerrilla group Moro National Liberation Front. Gerard Jan Lucero, Inquirer Mindanao

THE LIVING AND THE DEAD
A community of homeless people takes over space reserved for the dead at a cemetery in Barangay Lorega San Miguel in Cebu City, turning graveyards into homes for the living. ROMEO SUBIDO

Palawan gov questions ECC of mining firm

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Governor Abraham Kahlil Mitra questioned on Tuesday the issuance by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) of a permit to MacroAsia's mining venture in Brooke's Point, Palawan, saying local government has not even endorsed the project.

Mitra said he was surprised to read in the papers the declaration made by MacroAsia at the Philippine Stock Exchange that it already has an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) from the DENR.

Mitra said the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), a provincial body, is still deliberating on the application of Macroasia for a Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) clearance, a zoning permit issued by PCSD before firms are allowed to operate in the province.

Mitra said under an existing agreement between the DENR and the PCSD, the DENR would not issue an ECC unless a project proponent gets cleared by the PCSD.

"We have an existing agreement.... But it is apparent that in the case of MacroAsia, DENR did not respect this agreement," Mitra said.

The governor got in touch with the Mines and Geosciences Bureau and Macroasia but has yet to receive a reply on Mitra's statements. Inquirer 8 Audit, Inquirer Southern Luzon

N. Samar cops on red alert after another attack

By Joey Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

CALBAYOG CITY—The entire police force of Northern Samar was placed on red alert after another policeman was killed by the New People's Army (NPA) on Monday just 17 days after eight policemen were ambushed by the communist guerrillas.

On Monday, PO3 Geronimo Tria, a member of the fourth-person operation division of the Catarman police station, was gunned down by motorcycle-riding assailants in Barangay Bangkiawan, Catarman, at past 9 a.m.

The latest attack took place 17 days after eight policemen, also from Catarman, were ambushed by NPA members in Barangay Bentila, about eight kilometers away from the town proper.

Senior Supt. Brigido Dula, police provincial director, said the latest attack could be part of the rebels' "survival offensive."

Dula, however, said the attack on Tria was part of the risk of being a law enforcer.

"Wala ito sa amin ang ang atributes of a policeman. When he enters the [police organization], he knows right away that he is putting his life in danger," Dula said on Tuesday.

The NPA has claimed responsibility for the ambush, vowing to continue targeting policemen and soldiers.

"Wala ito sa amin ang ang atributes of a policeman. When he enters the [police organization], he knows right away that he is putting his life in danger," Dula said on Tuesday.

The NPA has claimed responsibility for the ambush, vowing to continue targeting policemen and soldiers.

Clark to lose ₱214M to firm backed by gov't lawyers

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Unless President Aquino intervenes, the state-owned Clark Development Corp. (CDC) is bound to lose P214 million to a private company that built in 1997 the Bamban Bridge now the mothballed Expo Pilipino in the Clark Freeport.

That amount of public funds, which the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) ordered garnished in April to pay off the collection suit of Cirtaco Corp., is likely to go to the company because state-depository banks of the CDC have taken steps to deliver the money on orders of the DOJC.

"First is of the sources. The writ of execution has been issued. The amount of P214 million of CDC's assets has been garnished. There is an urgent need to enforce this to disburse funds in the payment ... and save precious government funds," said CDC president and chief executive officer Henrique Escobar in a letter to Mr. Aquino.

In the letter received by Malacañang on Aug. 29, Escobar asked the President, through the Department of Justice, to direct the OGCC to suspend the implementation of the Aug. 4 writ. The CDC has not officially received a copy of the writ.

Escobar said the payment for state adjustments due to foreign currency fluctuations was "not due and payable." It also has "no legal basis or precedent" in the contract between the state-owned Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC) and the CDC. Cirtaco Corp. is a subcontractor of the PNCC.

Escobar said Presidential Decree No. 1594 does not authorize payment of cost adjustments caused by foreign currency fluctuations. This happened as Asia was gripped by an economic crisis starting 1997, he said.

He said the PNCC has "no material interest" in Cirtaco Corp. since it is a private subcontractor.

"OGCC does not have jurisdiction or arbitrate under Presidential Decree No. 242 but it is the Construction Industry Arbitration Commission under Executive Order No. 1008," Escobar said.

He added: "PD 242 has been used by PNCC to elevate camouflage private interest of Cirtaco and unwittingly used the OGCC as liaison for arbitration in order to collect for and on behalf of Cirtaco." Xinhua Orig. Inquirer Central Luzon

Losses prompt S. Leyte STL to shut down after 5 months

By Joey Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—After less than five months, Small Town Lottery (STL) outlets in Southern Leyte stopped operating because of low sales.

This was revealed by Asuncion Endaya, provincial manager and supervisor of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) in Tacloban City.

STL had its last draw in the province on Sept. 9, or just five months since it started its operations on May 25, Endaya said on Wednesday.

"The company running the STL in Southern Leyte decided to close its operations reportedly due to poor sales," she said.

STL operations in Southern Leyte were being handled by the Manila-based White Cliffs Corp., which has seven outlets in the province.

P19,000 in sales

Based on a report for July, the company earned P19,000 in gross sales, which was lower than at least P22,000 that it had targeted for winning lottery bets.

However, Endaya admitted that the PCSO could not verify the claim of the company as their gross sales because PCSO only depends on the company's sales reports.

Endaya said based on information released to PCSO by new workers of the company operating STL in the province, it appeared that the numbers game was unpopular in Southern Leyte.

Bettors reportedly preferred illegal numbers games, like swertres, which is based on results of the numbers games drawing the same name and sanctioned by the PCSO.

Leyte STL continues

Although STL is finished in Southern Leyte has shut down, STL continues to operate in Leyte's seven in 17 towns which Tacloban town as the main base.

PCSO has started investigating reports that many STL operators, among them those in Baugan and other Luzon provinces, have been underreporting their earnings to avoid paying the correct revenue to government.

Antigambling crusaders, led by Bishop Oscar Cruz, have urged STL to just another form of "jueteng," an illegal numbers racket popular in Central Luzon and Metro Manila.

STL, according to the bishop, failed to eradicate jueteng and simply provided a legal cover for the illegal numbers racket.

Several congressmen have also demanded an investigation of STL operations.

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

E-mail: [illegible]
Editor: [illegible]

Editor Jim Bandoyrel
Assoc. Chief Reporter C. Salenga

TO MAKE his pupils feel at ease, Alando dresses up like one of them during class hours.

idec
Split Type Wall Mounted Aircon
1hp-P16,500
Free Installation!
Also Available : Inverter Series

Ain't no mountain high to teach kids

The quality of education in the mountains can also be at par with that in urban schools

By Dello Muller Jr.
Lucena City

A good teacher is like a candle: it consumes itself to light the way for others.

—Anonymous

TEACHING, it is said, is a noble profession, but for a teacher assigned to far-flung areas and without resources, especially a newcomer, it can be daunting.

Allan Alando is assigned, however, to Mena, a remote sitio of San Andres town in Quezon, offbeat like a teaching job and surmounted the place of deployment. In immediately grabbed the opportunity.

Two years ago, he returned to his home village in Candelaria and was later assigned with another male teacher to Sigin Elementary School in Sitio Sigue, 28 km from the town proper. It takes more than two hours of bicycle and jeepney rides to the last of rugged roads to reach the place.

"The rest of the distance is accessible to couple of hours of motorbike ride and crossing rivers. If you're a newcomer, like the poll official who brought the PCOS machine in the last election, you will never never to return," Alando told with a laugh.

The school is in the border of San Andres, San Narciso, Mulanay and San Francisco towns, the most remote political territory of San Andres.

"I had long been aspiring to reside in my home village. The place offers lots of challenges and opportunities for a teacher to prove his worth," Alando said.

Changing mind-set

Asked why he chose the school, he explained: "Though I'm a native of the place, I was sent to the town to study my elementary and high school. Our thinking back then was basic education was inferior in quality. Now I want to help change that mind-set. I want to prove that the quality of education in the mountains can also be at par with that in urban schools."

Alando, 32, finished his Bachelor of Arts in English course at University of Northeastern Philippines in Iriga City in 2007 while working as a gardener and helper of one of the school owners. "My late mother also once served as a helper of the family," he said.

He later took up basic units in education.

Alando said two of his five siblings are also teachers.

He started teaching pupils from Grades 1 to 6 in Pagsa on Sept. 13, 2008, while his coteacher took charge of elementary beginners. In May 2009, his colleague was killed in Mulanay town, leaving him alone to handle 100 pupils.

To work things out, Alando decided the students vote morning and afternoon shifts.

ALLAN Alando (front) is cool as his home village in San Andres, Quezon, to prove that good education can also be taught in remote villages.

Fat, slow learners

"I segregated the slow learners from the fast learners," he said. "I engaged the fast learners to help those classmates catch up with the lessons. If they see neighbors, the little ones are obliged to ask for assigned seat, door for more reading, writing and number computation drills," he said.

"The students were helping each other in their common quest for knowledge," he added.

Once the poor student shows improvement in class, the "little teacher" would receive incentives in terms of additional grade.

Alando's strategy paid off. The students have scored remarkably well, particularly in English and Filipino, in the annual child-readiness tests for elementary pupils.

Lowell Dupra, a Lucena public elementary school teacher and Alando's classmate in a Bicol Schoolyard Management class at Polytechnic University of the Philippines in Tutuan campus, is all praises for him.

"He is always the source of inspiration in our class because of his dedication and perseverance. He is a born teacher," Dupra said.

Model public servant

Coachees village chieftain Florante Cayco Jumayao described Alando as a model public servant.

"He is walking when it concerns the education of our children. With a place like Sigue, it's hard to find a teacher. But with Mr. Alando, it's different. He truly loves his job," Jumayao said over the phone.

The school compound occupies a 300-square-meter government lot surrounded by coconut trees and "kakawate" trees, and secured by a makeshift wooden gate.

The dilapidated two-classroom school building was donated by the late Sen. Raul Roco. Another older one-room classroom was built during the Marcos regime.

"The roof of one Roco room was heavily damaged by typhoon. I enlisted the help of the parents of my students and they repaired the roof. Bayanihan style, 'ika nga'.

Photos of the school e-mailed by Alando, shows the concrete flooring of the classroom badly needing repair. The walls are patched with whatever materials are available, but still some parts are exposed to the elements. Some of the glass panes in the windows are missing.

Last week, the Department of Education gave two blackboards to the school. Alando said more than 20 kids took turns carrying them from the nearest jeepney stop and hiked more than two hours to bring them to the school.

In June last year, the municipal government hired Alando's sister Arlene, also an education graduate but still unlicensed to teach, to help him in Sigue.

"We built a makeshift house inside the school compound so that we will be present every day and also as an effortlessly oversee the school operation," Alando said.

School graduates

The school was able to produce six graduates last school year. Five of them entered high school.

"The last time I inquired about the performance of my graduates, I was told by their high school teachers that they were doing well, especially in English. I'm proud of them," Alando said.

He added: "One of my graduates took the gold in one of the athletic events during the last district meet."

He lamented that during the graduation ceremony most of the guests came because the place is too far. "I rarely count five. I had to borrow chairs from the kids."

For the current school year, 84 students are enrolled. Most of them come from neighboring sitios and hike for hours daily through forest trails, crossing rivers on ata bamboo bridges to attend their classes.

"During rainy days almost all of them come to school barefoot and muddy. To maintain that atmosphere of solidarity with my students, I teach wearing ordinary clothes, sometimes in shorts, and also muddy and barefoot," Alando said.

DepEd priorities

Short of directly soliciting the Department of Education, Alando said most school subjects were not in tune with the reality in far-flung schools. "My main focus is the three Rs—reading, writing and arithmetic. Because that's the basic knowledge that every student should learn and master," he explained.

He advised education officials not to give too much focus on the controversial sexual education. "The students would eventually learn the nature naturally when they grow up."

He said he really is promise to his Grades 5 and 6 pupils that he would bring them to town this Christmas to personally experience seeing the Jollibee.

"How I wish that the government could send funds to market roads and bring solar power in the village to open up more intellectual opportunities for the kids," he said.

Alando said he had made overtures to Rowe Wagner for another assignment. "I will do teaching here because no teacher will accept this post. Besides, I don't have the heart to leave the kids."

Before the interview ended, he showed a plastic full of recorded medicines that he bought from his own pocket.

"This is not for my personal use alone. I'm also the nurse, teacher, janitor, guidance counselor and architect-in-chief to my school," he said.

INDUSTRIAL HI-PRESSURE CLEANERS
CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL INC.

mazda
PASONG TAMO MAKATI
Come and visit our showroom today!
DEALER OF THE YEAR
www.mazdamakati.com

FUJI Xerox
DocuCentre 1060 DC
P 8,888* for 8 months!
Multiple Savings
FREE
FUJI XEROX

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Best chance

EDITORIAL

WHAT IS behind Archbishop Oscar Cruz up to? Is the latest recital of his crusade against jueteng Cruz first accused two government officials including key positions and trusted by President Aquino as protectors of the illegal numbers game. He said those officials were receiving at least P2 million an month(*sic*) payola from jueteng operators. Then he said that five local officials close to Mr. Aquino were also receiving bribes from illegal gambling operators. Now he has accused his fellow priests (and bishops?) to at least eight dioceses in Luzon and the Visayas of accepting "donations" from jueteng lords. "We know it among ourselves," he said of the members of the Catholic clergy. "We know each other."

So what has the Church done about it? In 2006, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines issued a statement denouncing illegal gambling. But beyond declarations, what have they done about it? Most specifically what has the archbishop, who has earned his right to protect jueteng into a personal crusade, done to clean up the mess in his own backyard?

By not sparing his fellow men of the cloth, Cruz remains by print added credibility for his heroic resolutions about illegal gambling and corrupt officials. But how will his enhanced credibility push his crusade forward if he does not take the next logical step of taking this to the proper authorities? What does he achieve by making exposés and denunciations and going no further? Because he refuses to name names, he won't even be able to throw anyone into stopping the practice of accepting donations (in the case of priests) or bribes (in the case of public officials) from illegal gambling operators. Unless it is his intention to merely warn off everyone involved to the rackets, the archbishop should share his information with the proper authorities.

Cruz is, of course, quite understandably wary of sharing his information with Congress. He went through the exercise in 2005 and presented several witnesses, who accused the husband, brother-in-law and son of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of receiving payoffs, but all their efforts went for naught.

But there is a new administration in Malacañang, and it is headed by a President whose election rise even a whisper has been heard linking him to jueteng. President Aquino has promised to investigate any official Cruz would identify, "no matter how little" the evidence he may have and reiterated that "if there is proof, they will pay." And top administration officials are fully aware of the strangeness of the problem. Just three weeks after the new President took office, Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo already sent a memorandum to then Director General Jesus Mendoza directing the Philippine National Police "to conduct a nationwide operation to stamp out jueteng." The President knows that jueteng has grown into a P37-billion industry and has ordered Robredo to come up with a comprehensive plan to eradicate the problem even before Cruz made his claims public.

Of course, doubts have been raised about the capacity of the Aquino administration to solve the problem, especially since many of those mentioned in new protectors of jueteng have been described by Cruz as close to the President. But the archbishop himself seems to be unsure now about the guilt of some people he seemed to have alluded to in his initial disclosures. After Local Government Undersecretary Rico Puno publicly admitted that he had been approached by emissaries of jueteng operators but rejected their inducements, Cruz said he believed Puno was telling the truth and so he was giving him "the benefit of the doubt because at that time he was still new on the job." At the very least, that leaves one top official less who was getting P2 million a month.

This not to say that Cruz is totally wrong. The reality is that jueteng continues to thrive, and it thrives because many police and civilian officials are on the take. But the President alone cannot stamp it out. He needs the cooperation not only of the police and local officials but also of citizens. We hope the archbishop and his group will give him their confidence and cooperation. With a President who cannot be tempted with dirty money, this may be our best chance of finally ending not this plague which has corrupted the police, the local governments and at least two previous presidencies.

Turkey's turning point

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

ISTANBUL, 10 a.m.—As the clock struck, I drew myself in the Turkey enjoying a roughly view of a political event seldom seen in the part of the world—a democratic referendum aimed at ensuring the last vestiges of authoritarian rule. This delicate exercise is focused on change the way the staunchly secular nation with its multiethnic, but predominantly Islamic population will govern itself in the coming years. If this bold initiative succeeds, it will chart a new path to Islamic modernity. If it fails, it could plunge Turkey back into a cycle of political instability and military rule.

The symbolism of Sept. 12, the date chosen for the referendum, cannot be missed by anyone in this country who is old enough or sensitive. But the military seized power in 1980. That month-and-a-day would forge the lingering legacy of that massive fully executed coup that Turkey is responding, 30 years later, with a democratic referendum. The stakes are the message.

The referendum involves around 26 amendments to the 1982 constitution that was supposed to pave the return to civilian government. Instead of holding a separate vote on every issue, the recent referendum asks the voters to vote "Evet" (Yes) or "Hayir" (No) on the whole package. Many have criticized this ploy as confusing. Nonetheless, More than half of the amendments deal with affirmative reforms in favor of women, children, the aged and the disadvantaged. But no one in the right mind can possibly oppose. But a couple of items are controversial. They include amendments codifying provisions of the military's internal code that have long hamstrung the Supreme Judge of the military courts and the nation's political life.

One of these is Provision No. 15, which confers permanent immunity from criminal prosecution on the military officers who led the 1980 coup. A "No" vote would erase this immunity.

The history of these martial law powers is quite complex. In the years leading to the 1980 coup, Turkey was torn apart by internal political strife that seemed insoluble. Murder and violence became the rule of the day. Many turned to the military to intervene. This is consistent with the military's heroic image in the nation's collective psyche. When the soldiers stepped into the political stage, order was restored by enforced. The killings abruptly stopped, prompting skeptics—but that chaos had been orchestrated to justify military rule.

So government in recent memory has enshrined the legacy of militarism as directly as the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. AKP is making up the crime of a storied economic performance that has placed Turkey in the roster of the five fastest-growing economies in the world. This spectacular achievement, in a region still reeling from effects of the global financial crisis, immensely strengthened Turkey's long-standing bid for membership in the European Union. It consistently signed assemblies that the final answer in this bid for full acceptance in the European community lies in the democratization of Turkish governance with Western political values.

What this synchronization precisely requires—Turkey's critics ask—is the current political debate in the ensuing country—a nation that willfully avoided itself out of the fragments of the Ottoman Empire. Under the leadership of Kemal Ataturk, Turkey established a strong republic on traditions premised on a modern secular state. It was determined to this secularism that until today, the Turkish state expressly bans all manifestations of religious identity in the public square. This includes the wearing of the Muslim veil or headscarf in schools and government offices.

Over the years, this strict secularist policy has given rise to a most liberal practice that allows reasonable space for the practice of religion and this manifestation of Islamic rituals and beliefs by various spheres of social life. This has arisen about partly as a result of the growing influence of Islamic ideas in the formulation of a vision for modern Turkey, but in part as an outcome of the reasoned confidence that Islam is giving to its adherents in its political world. This is relevant against that is not adequately captured by simplistic labels like Islamic fundamentalism. No doubt it is a venue to battle, but I suspect it is above all a quest to find and create meanings in a world that is equally being flattened by the global forces of the market.

In his evening of referendum day, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has steered this country through challenging times since 2002, was profusely thanking everyone who participated in the exercise, regardless of how they voted. The victory of the "Yes" votes was announced barely three hours after the polls closed. This is cue for Turkish democracy, the prime minister said. Interestingly, he had special words of thanks for a Muslim intellectual who is abroad and who had quietly spoken for a "yes" vote. He did not mention the name but I was told he was alluding to Fetullah Gulen, possibly the most influential Islamic figure in Turkey today.

Most of the academics and intellectuals I have met on this trip are pessimistic in their hope that this referendum is the start of Turkey's democratic transition from the status of militarism. Instead, What is of special interest to me as a sociologist is the role that the Islamic faith appears to be playing in blazing a different path to Turkish modernity. The end of the world is surely something, reading all kinds of meanings into this intriguing turning point in the life of the Turkish nation.

• • •

public.lives@gmail.com

Name them

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

[illegible] Emily, Serge Osmeña and Tito Sotto have spoken. Some names.

That's their advice to Archbishop Oscar Cruz. The archbishop came out earlier this week to say that five high-ranking officials who are close to Pres. Noynoy Aquino had instantly went on the take on jueteng. He said the number of officials could even be five. His group was still completing their case, he said, and he would reveal the identities of the officials in due time.

Says Enrile: "If I had the information, I'd reveal who they are. I don't care how high up they go." Says Osmeña: "We're made to play a guessing game. Let's stop this charade. Name names." Says Sotto: "It would be better if Archbishop Cruz tells us who they are. Otherwise, everyone will be on trial."

It's a very good point. At the very least, it's unfair. You accuse no one in particular, you accuse everyone in general. The whole government gets infected. Misconduct gets inflicted. Policy gets outlawed. All on the strength of an unproven charge.

At the very least, it sets a dangerous precedent. Which is, become vain, prove later. The problem is not just that it is unfair to the innocent, it is that we don't even know if the accusations true.

Cruz doesn't make things better by being evasive and, indeed, disputed, as Pilipo's navigator for the Cruz, previously those things with a disarming budget, how could Pilipo not do so with the resource chest of government behind him? It not only grants when has set to be proven, it makes any motion to it office than absolute that a sure sign of stupidity. That kind of reasoning proves bigger problems than jueteng.

It opens the door to everyone doing the same thing. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo may turn accuse officials close to Pilipo of smuggling, saying she is still in the process of completing her case. Pilipo will counter-accuse in due time. Then Pilipo should be upbeat, or amused, by this revelation is a sign only that he is not doing his job. How else can DILA know about this when she is now reduced to being a mere congressman, while Pilipo does not need to be the president? That can only be the product of consummate incompetence.

The best advice came from Enrile.

I grant ORA does not have a track record of fighting smuggling in the same way that Cruz has of fighting jueteng. That still does not excuse Cruz from the elementary rules of justice. Before you have proof, don't accuse. Unless you have accusations, don't declare. Unless you have names, don't accuse. Your case is not complete, wait for it to be complete. Don't open your mouth. You won't be seen as hungry for probity; you will be seen as hungry for publicity.

This is a new government. And I personally believe it's time we avoid all those predictions if it would just legalize jueteng. That's simpler than trying to replace it with small, basic justice which is gaining little traction. Gambling is a vice, but it is a vice like smoking and drinking. Of course you should discourage it, as the government does with smoking and drinking. Smoking kills you, and second-hand smoking kills others. Drinking, which in this country is as much as a social scourge as it is to Russia, doesn't just harm you, it harms your family and friends. It is probably the one single factor generally contributing to wife battering here. Gambling, on the other hand, is a victimless crime.

Like smoking and drinking, you must, and ought to, discourage gambling. But like smoking and drinking, you must, and ought, not outlaw it.

These things are a matter of choice, at least in a democracy. Nevertheless, do outrages by alcohol-abetted and gambling, if not equivalent, at the cost of having the not-so-quick resources of the religious police. I still want to live in a society where a government does not kill people who want to kill themselves.

You cannot abolish popular gambling—you get to abolish jueteng, it will be replaced by something else. The cockpit has been there for as long as the Church, and still no small help from the Church. Outlawing jueteng is like outlawing alcohol, and produces the same results. The American Prohibition on alcohol merely produced gangsters and moonshine. The Philippine Prohibition on jueteng merely produces gangsters and has while the concession for their heads is high places.

A wise government knows when you put under control. A wise you cannot scuttle, you legislate. Like smoking and drinking, you may prevent minors from engaging in jueteng. Like stores that sell cigarettes and liquor, you may not allow jueteng operations to operate within a furlong of a house. Like any regulated vice, gambling may not start without paying taxes. Preferably the money should collected.

None of this is to say that if Cruz's charge is true, the government officials on the take should get off or get off lightly. At the very least, that is no excuse you may not be found innocent of a crime you committed today after the crime is no longer deemed to be so a crime. You are caught drinking when drinking is banned, you may not be fined because the ban has been lifted. You serve your time.

But all that depends on whether in this case has nothing to do with gambling, it has everything to do with public office. Corruption is a crime, whether it has to do with jueteng or smuggling. Accusing a bribe is a crime, whether it has to do with jueteng or pure and simple acceptance of payola.

But all that depends on whether or not Cruz's charge is true. As this point, the question is not yet. Who are the public officials involved? It is still, "Is Cruz's charge true?" That charge doesn't become true by mere say-so. The charge doesn't become true unless it is validated, unsullied, backed up by facts. That charge doesn't become true until Cruz satisfies the most basic condition of charging people: Name them.

Publisher Isaac Rivera
Editor in Chief Letty Jimena Magsanoc
Managing Editor Lisa Ma. R. Molave
Associate Editor Armando L. Doronila
Opinion Editor Juan V. Mercado
Deputy Editor Antonio T. Enriquez Jr. • Chief, Inquirer Operations Hazel Pilapil
Chief, News Desk Cielo R. Alcaraz-Sio
Supervising Editor Philippine Inquirer Jr.
Senior Desk Editor Jane P. Sumambo Jr.
Editorial Consultant Antonio Zumel
Chief Photographer Ernie C. Sevidad
Art & Design Chief Artist Lorie F. A. Villaruel

Board Chairman Hans H. Poon
President Alejandro Prieto-Roman III
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing Bienvenido Noriega
Vice President for Advertising Hazel R. Olarte
Vice President for Info Tech and Production Gary G. Lim
Vice President for Finance Jose M. Valencia
AVP for Circulation Manuel Andres R. Collado IV
Corporate Affairs Manager Corina R. Kalaw

All rights reserved. No part may be reproduced in any form without the written permission of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. Unauthorized reproduction is a violation of law and subject to prosecution.

P-Noy, peso power

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

THE SUCCESSFUL sale last week of the government's $1 billion five-tenor bonds was a vote of confidence for President Aquino's administration, especially considering that it was undertaken less than three months after it assumed power, still a short time to evaluate a regime's capabilities.

As the bonds were denominated in pesos, it is also an assessment by the global financial community for the first time in our post-war history, one that vocalizes, and votes strengthening of the peso's value. This is why the BSP, the investment bankers' statement said, re-responded here, to our nation's decision to adhere to establishment processes, despite the very serious challenges against those in the past several years.

The bond's two-time tenure certainly helped the completion from the 20-percent withholding tax on interest income usually imposed on such financial instruments. "The Republic will make all payments of principal and interest in respect of the global bonds free and clear of, and without withholding or deducting any present or future taxes of any nature imposed by or within the Republic, unless required by law," according to its prospectus.

Now that corporate retirement on the bond's last date has been extended to 25 years, the bond fund managers enough. The worry was that some "speculators" will like a quit in court and get a tidbit supporting payment of the tax. So at the last minute of the bonds' sale, another statement was issued by the Republic's finance secretary, Cesar Purisima, that the Republic will pay additional amounts so that the holders of the global bonds receive the amounts that would have been received by them had no withholding or deduction been required." So as if the Chinese secretary had not had their agent. "If a court rules that the tax should be paid, government itself will pay the tax." That was the big uncertainty for the issue.

The bond's tax advantage is a big issue," according to a Bloomberg report. "Investors had been primarily lured by the asset's low-interest rates and generally optimistic expectations for our country's calculation that the peso will strengthen. This was a proposition we also several years ago. Given the pesos investments over the past few decades, from P2.11 in 1960, it even seemed that it was some kind of law of gravity in economics that dense was the only way for the peso to go. In 1992, a rapper, who should know what he's saying and who's not usually given to making exaggerated claims, even proclaimed that the unit would be P1.20 to the dollar by 2000.

Two factors explain the strengthening of the peso in the past several years: First the huge inflows of Filipinos living and working overseas. There have doubled from $11 billion annually in the 1990s to $17.2 billion last year.

But huge remittances are a necessary but not sufficient cause for the strengthening of the peso. Even if remittances were increasing by over 20 percent annually from 1995 to 2008, the peso's international value steadily fell from P39.51 in 1995 to a low of P54.13 in 2004. The peso though started to strengthen from P55.02 in 2005, to P47 in 2009, to the current P44, even moving to the P43 level in the last day.

The main reason for this: our country, both economically and politically, has improved. Workers' remittances are just like any capital: they always find a way to avoid risk, and seek safe havens.

The coup attempts and other forms of economic upheaval President Macapagal-Arroyo faced in 2001 to 2006 scared away investors. Gloria's successor's stable economic policies and her prosecution of the Ampatuans, as much as that the peso's value dropped to its lowest in the presidential election year of 2004. The Philippines' economic outlook has improved from 2005 to 2009, the global financial analysts entered to view them as riskless assets, and calculated that there would be a possibly currency of power in 2011 which happened. For nations, stability is of level first matters.

+++

Email: rigtas.inquirer@gmail.com

No laughing matter

I BELIEVE understand jokes. I seldom find them amusing. But the kind of jokes I detest most are those made in the midst of unique opportunities.

Last month, Filipinos used humor and sarcasm as a form of comic relief or perhaps as a defense mechanism. Several Filipinos flooded the Internet with Facebook statuses and tweets ridiculing the handling of the hostage crisis at the Quirino Grandstand.

And Manu Rej's "seven major" blunder during the 2010 Miss Universe Pageant.

To those who thought these were a laughing matter, I challenge you. There is nothing to laugh about, especially when it involves bullets on the part of the government. A nation is defined by how it handles crises. If that is the case, shame to handle a crisis, then we must be hopeless. We cannot be the same nation who cheered for Pacquiao after his gory knockout at the Quirino Grandstand just June 30. Judging from how we have been acting since the Aug. 23 tragedy, then we are a nation in love.

Anyone who was online on that tragic day would have read about our fellow countrymen calling the SWAT team: "Tere's Walk Along Training," "Tere Mag Ang Along Forever," "Light Mag Atras Tere," "Ma-offend ka sin 'yung mashapos ng tapCounter Strike pinaro kayo ng SWAT team."

Of course, there is such a thing as freedom of expression, but in this case, the exercise of that freedom bordered on stupidity. The most think before we speak. Or in this digital age, we must think before we post.

As if these attempts at humor were not enough, they had to be paired with the blame game...a favorite Pinoy exercise. The minute the hostage-taking became a disaster, fingers started to be pointed as soon as one who might have contributed to the failure of the rescue attempt, the President, the PNP/AFP teams, Ronald Mendoza, Gina Lopez, etc.

With our e-bomb, the SWAT team was not well prepared, the President's apology was not effective, Mayor Lim's downfall was not effective, and the media crossed the line when they turned the coverage into a carnival. But it is really necessary for us to ridicule them through every one-liners? I think not. But I speak who have the habit of saying "yo" and "tan" to many others and regretting it later. It is demonstrating our lack of respect for others. And in the process of humiliating public figures, we have humiliated ourselves.

Many humor constantly repeats itself. We recycle jokes and some one-liners like we recycle girls. This explains why we can watch YouTube videos of dancing and swimming PH ignes guy boys repeatedly and laugh every single time. A friend of mine texted to explain that to me by saying, "It's so bad that it's so good."

This was what happened when Manu Rej committed his "major major" blunder. We all cringed when she responded to American actor William Baldwin's question about the biggest mistake she made in her life by saying, "You know what, sir, in my 22 years of existence, I can say that there's nothing major. I mean, problems, sabi ko nga, I'm not perfect but then I'm very confident with my family, with the love that they are giving to me. So thank you so much. But I'm here. Thank you, thank you so much."

It was a normal human reaction for Filipinos to be embarrassed by her answer. She was our candidate. We were rooting for her to bring home the crown. It wasn't a very smart answer. But since we said "major, major" to our every day conversations now? It seems we lack grace in much to our lack respect.

When Miriam Quiambao tripped during the 1999 Miss Universe Pageant, it was an embarrassing experience for her. But she collected herself and handled her walk with grace. As a nation, we need to do the same after the embarrassing and bloody episode of the Rizal Park.

Here we handled that crisis would make any Filipino ashamed. But putting our heads down in embarrassment would not repair the future done. This is neither a laughing matter nor an occasion to play the blame game. Let us acknowledge the mistakes we made. Let that process take its course. And let us move forward. We need to move the needle, not with humor or controversy, it only serves to propel us as a nation and insensitive people. We can build a stronger PNP because it held before candidates as Miss Universe contestants, but if we do not work on becoming more sensitive and faithful individuals, we will not have a respectful place in the community of nations.

Laughter is a good way to express relief or good will we live with our handling of the hostage crisis. It will only deepen the hurt brought upon on others by the events of Aug. 23. Those people who thought this was an opportunity to crack jokes may be laughing about it now, but they will soon find out that there may not be the last laugh.

Ana Beatrice Guerrero Trinidad, 28, is a second year medical communications major at the University of Melbourne.

YOUNG BLOOD

Ana Beatrice Guerrero Trinidad

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twenty-something and below.—Ed.

Anyone who was online on that tragic day would have read about our fellow countrymen calling the SWAT team: "Tere's Walk Along Training," "Tere Mag Ang Along Forever," "Light Mag Atras Tere." This reflects on us "yung mashapos ng tapCounter Strike pinaro kayo ng SWAT team."

Of course, there is such a thing as freedom of expression, but in this case, the exercise of that freedom bordered on stupidity. We must think before we speak. Or in this digital age, we must think before we post.

As if these attempts at humor were not enough, they had to be paired with the blame game...a favorite Pinoy exercise. The minute the hostage-taking became a disaster, fingers started to be pointed as soon as one who might have contributed to the failure of the rescue attempt, the President, the PNP/AFP teams, Ronald Mendoza, Gina Lopez, etc.

With our e-bomb, the SWAT team was not well prepared, the President's apology was not effective, Mayor Lim's downfall was not effective, and the media crossed the line when they turned the coverage into a carnival. But it is really necessary for us to ridicule them through every one-liners? I think not. But I speak who have the habit of saying "yo" and "tan" to many others and regretting it later. It is demonstrating our lack of respect for others. And in the process of humiliating public figures, we have humiliated ourselves.

Many humor constantly repeats itself. We recycle jokes and some one-liners like we recycle girls. This explains why we can watch YouTube videos of dancing and swimming PH ignes guy boys repeatedly and laugh every single time. A friend of mine texted to explain that to me by saying, "It's so bad that it's so good."

This was what happened when Manu Rej committed her "major major" blunder. We all cringed when she responded to American actor William Baldwin's question about the biggest mistake she made in her life by saying, "You know what, sir, in my 22 years of existence, I can say that there's nothing major. I mean, problems, sabi ko nga, I'm not perfect but then I'm very confident with my family, with the love that they are giving to me. So thank you so much. But I'm here. Thank you, thank you so much."

It was a normal human reaction for Filipinos to be embarrassed by her answer. She was our candidate. We were rooting for her to bring home the crown. It wasn't a very smart answer. But since we said "major, major" to our every day conversations now? It seems we lack grace in much to our lack respect.

When Miriam Quiambao tripped during the 1999 Miss Universe Pageant, it was an embarrassing experience for her. But she collected herself and handled her walk with grace. As a nation, we need to do the same after the embarrassing and bloody episode of the Rizal Park.

Here we handled that crisis would make any Filipino ashamed. But putting our heads down in embarrassment would not repair the future done. This is neither a laughing matter nor an occasion to play the blame game. Let us acknowledge the mistakes we made. Let that process take its course. And let us move forward. We need to move the needle, not with humor or controversy, it only serves to propel us as a nation and insensitive people. We can build a stronger PNP because it held before candidates as Miss Universe contestants, but if we do not work on becoming more sensitive and faithful individuals, we will not have a respectful place in the community of nations.

Laughter is a good way to express relief or good will we live with our handling of the hostage crisis. It will only deepen the hurt brought upon on others by the events of Aug. 23. Those people who thought this was an opportunity to crack jokes may be laughing about it now, but they will soon find out that there may not be the last laugh.

Ana Beatrice Guerrero Trinidad, 28, is a second year medical communications major at the University of Melbourne.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

The latest on hunger, MDGs

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Cerise P. Dayo

NEBCAST LAST Tuesday afternoon from Rome was the presentation of the latest figures on world hunger by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. You could watch the webcast and get the latest data by logging on to http://www.fao.org/webcast/. It's like being there if the press conference yourself.

And while you are at your computer, you might as well sign the "Petition to End Hunger" (www.fao.org/end-hunger) that was launched in Rome from Monday's webcast, forming and collecting your the "road as hell." It's a great way to connect.

The release of the UN figures came in advance of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Summit in New York next week, which President Aquino will be attending, and the publication of FAO's annual flagship report, "The State of World's Food Insecurity," (SOFI) which is due on October.

There's a lot to digest, so let's start.

The bad news is that the latest estimate of the number of people who will suffer chronic hunger this year is staggering: 925 million.

That's 98 million more than the 827 million documented in 2009. This is a 9.6 percent increase, and by Asia and 40 and 4849 are not happy with this and said that the number of hungry people in the world still "remains unacceptably high." Despite the gains that pushed the figure below 1 billion.

Lamented FAO director-general Jacques Diouf: "But even a child dying every six seconds because of undernourishment-related problems, hunger remains the world's largest, tragic and scandal. This is also much unacceptable."

And so it goes without saying that the first MDG, which is "eradicate extreme poverty and hunger," will not be met by 2015. Diouf himself warned that the continuing high global hunger level "makes it extremely difficult to achieve not only the first MDG but also the rest of the MDGs."

Nevertheless, last week, Mr. Aquino told a media interview in Tacloban City in Leyte province that on the Philippines' MDGs that he was not giving up on meeting the 2015 target date for the MDGs. He wouldn't comment, despite the technical assessment of the country's MDG progress in the SOFI report that said the country might miss nearly all the MDGs, including cutting poverty by half.

Here are the eight MDGs that nations all over the world have been working on since 2000.

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Achieve universal primary education
- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Reduce child mortality
- Improve maternal health
- Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Ensure environmental sustainability
- Develop a global partnership for development

It is worth noting that many countries, including some of the poorest, are moving forward to wind the goals. This is proved, one UN report said, that setting bold, collective goals really works. But it also pointed out that improvements in the lives of the poor have been slow and that world economic crises derailed by climate change, food and economic crises.

The 2010 lowest global hunger number, the FAO report said, resulted largely from renewed economic growth experienced that year, particularly in developing countries, and the drop in food prices since mid-2008. The recent increase in food prices is now threatening the further reduction of hunger.

But new "data" are beyond figures. There is a problem, and it is considered one. FAO said. How to press the fact that hides badly. The number of undernourished continued to increase even despite the high prices of food, the report said, proves? FAO concluded that economic growth, while essential, will not be sufficient to eliminate hunger within an acceptable period of time.

The FAO report recommends that to cope in Africa, Asia and Latin America—must be replicated in each region.

Other key findings in the FAO report: Two-thirds of the world's undernourished live in just seven countries—Bangladesh, China, Congo, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia and Pakistan. Here in Asia, Myanmar and Vietnam are reported to have achieved the MDG and China is close to doing so.

What about the Philippines? Affable press-liaison said that "the verdict is a hanging behind."

The three issues across that the country must focus on. Broke said, is poverty reduction, education and maternal health. Which should also be focused on improving the performance of boys to halve education, as well as reducing the cases of HIV/AIDS.

The report was optimistic in meeting the targets on reducing child mortality, promoting women empowerment, reversing the incidence of malaria and TB and providing access to sanitary toilets.

But what more to do in the next five years? Among the recommendations is the need to sustain the high economic growth experienced this year, and for this to be shared by the poor. Broke said: "The economic model to attract local and foreign investment to open up more jobs, to develop physical infrastructure, has to be improved, social and power have to be made available at competitive rates, and many transactional systems in doing business have to be streamlined."

Localizing MDGs is key. Binds law came out with 10 province-specific reports on, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Batangas, Bulacan, Camarines Norte, Eastern Samar, Masbate, Southern Leyte, Sorsogon and Siquijor.

The Philippines' 10/08 progress report will be presented at the High Level Panel's Meeting on the MDGs in New York on Sept. 20 to 22, which Pres. Benigno Aquino will attend.

We have the cause to cope.

+++

I will be at the International Book Fair at SMX on Thursday for book signing of "Home and the Big Picture" and my Binding Book "Uncivil (2010), an illustrated story book I dedicate to the children who lost their lives during the typhoons "Ondoy" and "Pepeng" and to the children who survived.

+++

Send feedback to cersedp@gmail.com or www.cersedayo.com

MDGs, climate change and the Catholic Church

COMMENTARY

David Gunnoe

JOHN HENRY CARDINAL NEWMAN was one of the greatest Englishmen; not just of his own times, but of any times. Like other courageous men and women of faith, he believed passionately that we should follow our conscience. Many of his writings, have stood for their primary education and

monthly care, and an equally large part of the services for all those suffering from AIDS.

The Holy See is a partner in many of the UN's Millennium Development Goals, which will be discussed at the UN headquarters in New York again next week, at which the deputy prime minister, Dick Cheney will represent this country. For our part, we are totally committed to meeting the UN's target of spending 0.7 percent of our GDP on foreign aid by 2013. And we want to ensure that the money we spend goes to those who need it most. Sustainable economic development is closely linked to political stability and security. A country in which there is a pressing gap between the rich and the poor will be more dangerous and less secure for all of us.

We are also done our part to the global Catholic Church in the campaign against climate change. Because again, in the poor countries, the effects of climate are to moderate global warming. What is required is not just international agreement to obtain carbon dioxide emissions, difficult in that to "do unto" to develop a new approach to economic growth, developing and promoting it in ways that respect and preserve our natural resources.

The new British government strongly believes in putting decisions down to the local level, and in involving as many people and organizations as possible in the process for real change. The challenge of every community. The great Liberal-century Tory philosopher, Edmund Burke, called these parts of society, the "little platoons" and argued that responsible democratic control among them, would be the best way of governing. I would like to gather where everyone pulls together and "works together" a more responsible society where we all take our responsibilities to each other, to our families and to our communities. Our values are those I just mentioned, but what are my responsibilities.

Catholic social teaching has made a similar creative move that is not left, and Catholic organizations work closely with other faith groups in education and welfare to make our country more harmonious and caring. Of course, the State has a role itself in promoting individual well-being, but this work should dovetail with what other do, not replace it.

The Pope's visit should not just be welcomed by British Catholics or people of faith more broadly, but by all who welcome what both groups contribute to our society and who understand that "doing well" is not a gift to be cherished, not a problem to be overcome.

We may not always agree with the Holy See on every issue. But that should not prevent us from acknowledging that the Holy See's broader messages and teachings are rich and valuable and can help about our society and how we treat ourselves and each other.

Cardinal Newman once said that our faith is dried, but it is tested by conscience. "In religion as in all else," he said "unity" or someone who "begins at one" ... reason and experience both then could be drawn by "the most limited religious conversation" or "the most intimate knowledge of the heart."

When he learned dead, the people of the city turned out to their thousands to see the mortal buried on the pall of his coffin, was for reason "about speaks to heart." Hardly surprisingly, it is the theme of this Papal visit. I hope that it will be a time when we can all learn more from Pope Benedict's writings in Britain and in the sentiments that he leaves behind when he returns to Rome.

David Gunnoe is the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom to the Philippines and Micronesia. The Pope's first official visit to the UK is on Sept. 16, 17, 2010. For details, visit the British Embassy website: www.ukinphilippines.fco.gov.uk

THEY SAID

Lamentable scoop

"It's lamentable that in a life-and-death situation, many of our colleagues were going for a scoop to be on top of the emergency game."

—Intercontinental Group of Journalists of the Philippines president Nestor Burgos

Tiller's right

"As long as I'm still breathing, I will fight to my last shot. I don't want to see the land I married tilling since I was 7 years old."

—Delia Ordoñez, president of the Alcantara Sugar Milling Workers Multipurpose Cooperative

The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

'Interisland RP visa,' anyone?

LETTERS

GOVERNMENT CRONUT send squatters back to the provinces they came from. But I say, surely the influx of "undocumented" Filipinos from the Visayas and the Bicol Region, Mindanao, like the city the United States does it, should require visitors to Luzon to go proper visas: tourist/temporary visa, business visa, student visa, etc. The still countless discourage unskilled/unemployed, with other handicapped, embark and disrupting unless Luzon never really to open themselves but to visit a relative who had to find work or pursue a Masculine, with lots of traffic. Stranded people and job opportunities.

Of course, this is all ironic. So, this post (in reality) by craft service to competition Manila without a degree. No money, no education, no degree, no degree, no job, no job, no money, no money, no house. He's supposed to envision style.

This reminds me of Filipino "TWG" (Illegal Filipino immigrants) to America. Every three times a day, by most park cases, tell prostitute, wife, or father. In the meantime, he finds himself a woman and together they build a family and raise children who will most likely end up like their parents: as volunteers, or despite, into the time old dilemma: who can't vote or become rich enough to the shortest distance between (up to either, cases. I say not xenophobic, but if up were to conclude on in depth survey of depressed and opinion area, countries will show that the majority of them have visions of Mindanao roots.

Most of us need to be "provide" (from the province) ourselves, but we came to Manila to study and earn a degree so, give us a fair chance to survive a formidable landscape. That's why we didn't end up homeless or hopelessly depressed here.

Today with the upcoming of more countrywides in provincial towns, more professionals choose to study in their respective towns and then and stop the University Belt. On the same breath, progressive should simultaneously develop the Visayas and Mindanao to encourage their residents to live and work in their own backyard and skip Luzon.

Either, the government also something to control it in no way this influx of would-be billion into Metro Manila, areas of disaster breeding ground and of squatters going berserk with random and policemen firing will continue to haunt our society.

—FRANCISCO L. PEDROSA, jupedrosa@msn.com

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by this feature, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Aguar and Makati de Jesus, City of Makati or send a fax to fax 897-2703, 897-2704, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The longer e- mail not published any letter unless such information is supplied.

A reminder: sidewalks are for people

REMIND CRETARIAS: Inter- ruled "standard sidewalk" (memo, 6/10/10), on how a developer of a condominium complex and other realty companies need to sidewalk space for its outbuilding ends, choice four-week inclusive people-city and homepage planning and balance. Inter- rents. It's akin to owners of large residential properties who park their boundaries down to the water's edge and view all passers-by as trespassers.

But it's not just a Manila problem. Living in Cagayan de Oro, I have noticed a few sidewalks here and there in the city, but overwhelmingly they either are too few or too narrow along with many vehicles because the sidewalk is down and ends abruptly. Out in the suburbs, people are lucky if there is anything in the between the road and the shop fronts: mud and gravel. And in my subdivision, there is just an ordinary road that has to accommodate all traffic—from walkers to motorcycles and because of the lack of sidewalks I all sorts of pedestrians, cause many to ride their bikes on the road instead.

Maybe it's due to poor planning, because there are a number of traffic black spots which consist of clogging up to and there near merging traffic through there are not enough signs to indicate "Destination" populated area," "Incident prone area."

And going to a side road from the main highway usually entails doing a sharp right-hand turn and slowing down to almost a full stop to avoid hitting the oncoming traffic. No consideration is made for gradual merging from the side shoulder road. That would cut too much money, and simply not happen.

Granted that in right- "sidewalks are the life of urban neighborhoods; they should serve be for safe or lease to the highest bidder."

But it's a sad legacy of all the years of individual and corporate corruption that corrupted, crippled and killed the drunk lover of the builders and the boomers.

If respect for human rights is to be more than justice on dog food, it should begin at the basic level of sidewalks. Streets are for traffic, sidewalks are for people.

—PASTOR V. SOMERVILLE, bangkal58@gmail.com

Ni How Much?

Grab our low seat sale fares to China, Taipei, Bangkok & more!

Seat Sale Period: Sep. 15-17, 2010 or until seats last

DOMESTIC SEAT SALE

Travel Period: Nov. 1–Dec. 31, 2010

₱699 — Manila to Calbayog, Caticlan or Tacloban; Cebu to Tacloban

INTERNATIONAL SEAT SALE

Travel Period: Nov. 1, 2010–Jan. 31, 2011

₱999 — Manila to Taipei

₱1,499 — Manila to Guangzhou, Shanghai or Beijing NEW! Cebu to Bangkok

₱1,999 — Manila to Bangkok

DOMESTIC

₱499	to Coron, Busuanga(Busuanga), Iloilo, San Jose (Mindoro), Tuguegarao or Virac; to Masbate, Cagayan de Oro or Iloilo
₱599	to Busuanga, Cebu, Kalibo, Legaspi or Tuguegarao; to Dumaguete or Surigao; to Cagayan de Oro
₱699	to Laoag, Puerto Princesa or Tagbilaran; to Davao or Zamboanga
₱999	to Boracay (Caticlan), Coron (Busuanga), Dumaguete or Siargao; to Boracay (Caticlan), Bohol, Cebu, Ilocos, Puerto Princesa, Siargao or Zamboanga
₱1,199	to General Santos, Legaspi, or Pagadian NEW!; to Iloilo or Zamboanga
₱1,499	to Cagayan de Oro or Davao
₱1,699	to Zamboanga or Siargao NEW!
₱1,799	to Bohol, Calbayog, Ilocos, General Santos, Dipolog or Pagadian NEW!

INTERNATIONAL

₱1,499	to Kota Kinabalu
₱1,699	to Singapore; to Singapore
₱2,299	to Hong Kong or Macau
₱2,499	to Hong Kong, Ho Chi Minh or Macau; to Hong Kong
₱2,899	to Brunei NEW!
₱2,999	to Singapore
₱3,499	to Kuala Lumpur
₱3,999	to Bangkok or Jakarta; to Busan or Incheon

INTERNATIONAL

₱5,999	to Osaka

Quoted fares are one-way. Limited availability. Fares are exclusive of government fees and taxes. Fares are non-refundable. Flight changes must be made more than 24 hours before scheduled time of departure. Go Lite Fares are available upon booking for guests traveling without check-in baggage. Add ₱100 to fare upon booking if traveling with check-in baggage. Cash approved terms and conditions of carriage apply and are available at www.cebupacificair.com or any Cebu Pacific sales office. For more information, call (02) 70-20-888 in Manila, (032) 230-88-88 in Cebu or visit the travel agent near you.

All allowable on Cebu Pac and the Cebu Pacific Xpo!

CEBU PACIFIC AIR.COM

BDO

Review of FDA ruling on Turkish flour urged

PUBLIC HEALTH should be a paramount concern in every country. But for years the Philippine government has allowed the importation of Turkish flour, which is found to be wheat-containing and mostly-making, despite its having been found to contain cancer-inducing ingredients.

Importers of Turkish flour have also been accused of underwashing (read: cleaning the grain) to remove oil stains and deprive Turkish flour dispersion to the Bureau of Customs (BOC).

We love clean the headline University in Turkey has addressed, as an article published in the Journal of Food, that Turkish flour is contaminated with cancer. The Encyclopedia Cosmos Encyclopedia says mycotoxins can cause hallucinations, skin inflammations, liver damage, hemorrhage, miscarriage, stomach cancer, neurological disturbances and so much so that it is said by experts that these poisonous substances are ailments, super toxins and the supreme chemical weapon among.

They may also lead to cancer.

According to data obtained by the Philippine Association of Flour Millers (Pafmil), the government has incurred revenue losses of P12billion from the widespread smuggling of Turkish flour in the five years as of 2008 alone.

The government of Indonesia, according to reports, has banned the importation of Turkish flour and imposed anti-dumping duties on Turkish flour to stop its influx of smuggling. So, how about the Philippines?

It is unfortunate that some officials in government, like Trade Undersecretary Zenaida Monsod, have to pressure the BOC and the Food and Drug Administration to create the excuses against Turkish flour because the government of Turkey, backed by the European Union, fought retaliation against some Philippine products. Was I sick. Is Undersecretary Monsod an official of the Philippines or an official of Turkey? Since I checked, she is a Philippine official, so she should represent our people's health and economic interests, and not act as spokesperson for foreign interests.

I am particularly concerned because most of those vulnerable to Turkish flour come from the poor like us in the provinces.

It is sad that there are Philippine government officials who care a blind eye to the concerns of consumers, especially the poor.

Probably President Aquino can look into this and order a review of the FDA finding declaring Turkish flour free of microbial. Perhaps he can look into the supposed underdenomination of Turkish flour dispersion in the course of his campaign slogan, "Kung walang tuwid, walang tuluyan."

—JOSE S. DE PEDRO, marinduquenson@ymail.com

Beyond 'wang-wang'

EDGAR PEÑA the editorial titled "Psychologically troubled," (Inquirer, 8/31/10) "Solved the foreign-ruling incident last aug. 23 should have been a missed gunmen-men-than-chance-of-lesser harm. From the very case there was something unnatural (or absurd).

"Before" was Rolando Mendoza, armed with an M16 and a pistol, threatened to kill the 22 Chinese tourists he was holding hostage, demanding his reinstatement into the police force, a government unit noted to maneuvers, arrest and order. The concerned authorities should have taken the case from him.

The crisis management team's primary concern is to rescue the hostages, but the tragedy during the final hours of the hostage crisis could on how it was to kill the hostage taker. WHAT were members assigned the scene like members known to as snipers movie, but they emerged from the tender. Who was the duty designated implanted of hostile coughing and gasping for air. The unnecessary loss of innocent lives caused the hostage drama into international scandal.

Based on official and pedestrian movements, the "rescue" operation was clumsy and unprofessional, and the assault team was ill-prepared. The police director points others that only chief have no one to blame for the fiasco if there are if their action is driven by the negative, result "heroes no" thinking.

We honor the deaths of the brave Filipino-citizen tourists. However, this tragedy should not be treated as a modern pompeii. Mendoza's demand had something to do with government inefficiency. The hospital nurses strongly showed government inadequacy. The will not be addressed by acquiring military equipment and more training but more importantly government and police people come. The education forward and "hang-wang."

—JULIE L. PO, Unang pagkakatawag Pilipino, jlp79@yahoo.com

PINOY'S BEST EVERYDAY

GREENHILLS
Shopping Center
Shop to Win!

17th National
Annual Antique Show
September 10 to October 4, 2010

Pet Blessing
October 2, 2010
G-Strip Parking Lot

17th Toys, Gifts
Housewares
Christmas Decor
Fair
October 8 to November 1, 2010

TIENDESITAS
en frontera verde
Pasig City

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

CLUB TERRIALES FILIPINAS
Global Affiliations
1st & 2nd
ALL BREED CHAMPIONSHIP DOG SHOW
September 18-19, 2010
with foreign judges from
to join, please contact ANCUPI
Tel. Nos. (02) 3766598

THE PALHS SHOW
(Philippine Arowana & Lou Han Society)
September 24 - 26, 2010
National Ornamental Fish Competition
with foreign judge

OCTOBER EVENTS

PET BLESSING
October 3, 2010

Global Affiliations
37th & 38th
ALL BREED CHAMPIONSHIP DOG SHOW
October 30 -31, 2010
People's Village 1 & 2
with foreign judges
to join, please contact ANCUPI
Tel. Nos. (02) 3766597 (02) 3766598

BIRDS
SHOW COMPETITION
OCTOBER 10, 2010

NOVEMBER EVENTS

22nd & 23rd
Cat Championship Show
November 21, 2010
with foreign judges from
for more information, contact:
Tess Tong, 09175233829

Global Affiliations
39th & 40th
ALL BREED CHAMPIONSHIP DOG SHOW
November 13-14, 2010
People's Village 1 & 2
with foreign judges
to join, please contact ANCUPI
Tel. Nos. (02) 3766597 (02) 3766598

YULETIDE EVENT

6th
MIDNIGHT
Flea Market
December 01, 2010 to January 03, 2010

COA finds no basis for ₱5-B road projects

From page A1

another ₱900 million in motor vehicle user's charge (MVUC), popularly known as the road user's tax, was also released for projects not approved by the Road Board or contained by the DPWH.

In addition, ₱84.29 million was used without approval on for projects not related to road maintenance, improvement of drainage and anti-pollution control activities, the COA said.

The audit agency also found that the ₱4.6-B million Motor Vehicle Inspection System that the Road Board acquired had not been put to motor system.

The Project Monitoring and Information Management System worth ₱8.86 million was also not utilized because of functional deficiencies in the system, which the contractor did not address, causing those costs not covered by the contract.

The COA said ₱4.2.05 million worth of road safety devices were also not installed.

"The infrequent use of speeds, high risk and danger caused by accident since the road safety devices remained unutilized," it said. There has been an increasing number of highway accidents since 2007, the audit agency noted.

Moreover, the Land Transportation Office failed to maximize the use of 16 smoke emission testing machines worth ₱39.52 million because of lack of proper planning, set targets and monitorings, caused personnel and collection of equipment.

The COA said an audit of 622 preventive road maintenance projects approved for road user's tax funding showed that only 28 projects were subjected to the annual work programs, and another 22 form the list of requested projects submitted to the DPWH.

"The source or basis of the remaining 571 projects with a total cost of ₱5.9175 billion could not be verified. These projects may have been included in the list of the requested projects received and evaluated by the Road Board Engineer," it said.

The COA said the release of funds from the road user's tax for three projects that did not undergo DPWH evaluations, and the selection of projects from the list without established criteria "may result in the arbitrary selection of roads to be maintained."

The funds to an unfair allocation of the Special Road Support Fund, the reimbursement of priority roads and the inadequate maintenance of national roads. "Since the Road Board has evaluated does not have the capability to determine the annual needs of adequate road maintenance," the COA said.

As for distribution of the Special Road Support Fund, the DPWH were supposed to prepare the annual work programs containing the projects to be financed, but this was not submitted to the Road Board from the latter and not used the list in choosing projects in the previous years, the COA said.

The DPWH contend was a list of project requests from members of the House of Representatives, DPWH officials and district engineers.

The request were numerous and could not be accommodated by the MVUC fund, prompting the Road Board to select from the list. But the procedures and criteria in the selection of the project were not yet provided by the board secretariat.

The COA also said that the Special Road Fund should be given to provincial and city governments based on vehicle population and size of road network, and should be used by maintaining local roads and road safety devices, and for traffic encroachment.

But the COA found that ₱28.89 million of the fund was ordered released to three Pasig-based development foundation and emergency projects, which consist of programs for the roadside maintenance of provincial and city roads in Quezon and Rizal.

The audit agency said the projects did not push through and the funds were returned, but granted out that projects to be funded by the Special Local Road Fund must be in accordance with the prescribed guidelines.

The COA recommended the list of projects to be prepared following the guidelines, and for this to be submitted within the prescribed period.

The agency also recommended that the list of approved projects to be handed by the MVUC be published on a website so that the public could monitor and that local district engineers would be informed of road maintenance activities.

The COA also found that funds were released for 40 preventive maintenance projects worth ₱960 million even though these were not approved by the Road Board or the DPWH. No documents were issued for 32 projects that the Road Board had approved the MVUC funding.

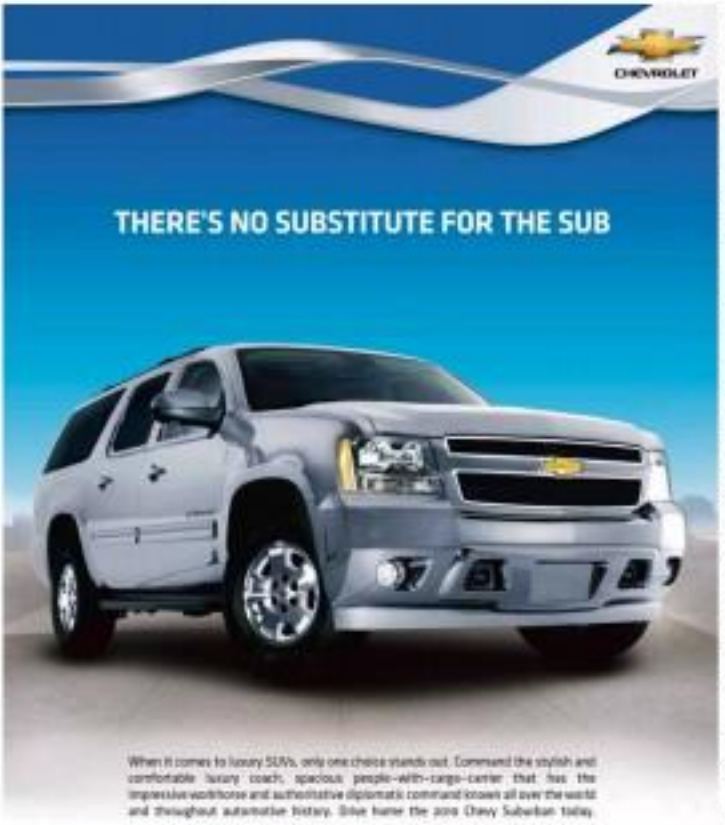
As for the ₱84.29 million, the COA found that ₱45.69 million in savings from MVUC funds were used for road repairs and productivity enhancement without authority from the Road Board.

Another ₱40.6 million was used for operating expenses, including salaries and wages, because of lack of proper funds.

But the COA said this practice violated the funds intended to maximize roads, safety devices and air pollution control activities.

The Road Board also identified excessive travel per-person meals, or markers supplementing centers vs lane fines, amounting to ₱28.86 million, the audit agency found.

It said that the trade was also placed in South Cotabato roads at intervals of 4.5 meters instead of 9 meters, resulting in ₱28.86 million in unnecessary cost to the government.



'Maaaaam, may I go home'

From page A4

students have to share two toilets—one each for girls and boys.

"We don't have proper toilet facilities. Sometimes students have to use a toilet, especially when it's an emergency, they go home," said Analyn Co, a science education teacher in Bagong Ilog in Pasig High School. "What's lucky that our students live nearby."

Many more public schools across the country experience the shortage in toilets—facilities critical in the drive to prevent contagious diseases in crowded government schools.

Biggest shortage

Among the regions, ARMM in Mindanao has the biggest shortage of sanitation facilities. Its public schools need 29,730 toilets: 12,798 urinals for males and some 13,848 bowls for females. Southern Tagalog is the second with a requirement for 15,703 toilets, almost as many as the rest of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao for 15,009 toilets.

Central Luzon and Zamboanga Peninsula needs at least 10,000 of each facilities more to meet minimum standing.

By the next school year, the shortfall is expected to rise to 151,084 toilets.

Ideal ratio

The Department of Education (DepEd) is seeking an ideal ratio of one toilet for every 50 students.

The DepEd's Physical Facilities and Schools Engineering Division did not release data on the current ratio.

Toilet facilities are critical in ensuring proper hygiene among students and incentivizing them to behave, said Lizda Reyes, assistant chief of the DepEd's Health and Nutrition Center.

"If there are inadequate sanitation facilities, [hygiene] is affected because that means there are inadequate hand-washing facilities. Students should be taught to regularly wash their hands," Reyes said.

Communicable diseases are often transmitted through unclean hands, she said.

Rotavirus and other transmitted bowels may also serve as breeding grounds for encephalitis carrying the dengue virus, which have killed 117 students. Dengue have also doubled to over 12,000 students since January.

The DepEd's engineering office said the shortage is being addressed.

₱3B million

More restrooms are being built and repaired annually, with some ₱300 million allotted this year.

"There's really a focus on the construction of new toilets. We are releasing ₱50 million for the project to schools in NCR (National Capital Region) this year," said Elmer Hernandez, head of the DepEd's Physical Facilities and Schools Engineering Division.

Hernandez said some ₱500 million was used for the construction of new toilet facilities last year.

A standard school restroom, complete with bowels, urinals and hand-washing facilities, costs around ₱300,000, he said.

SHDA-HUDCC NATIONAL DEVELOPERS CONVENTION

The Housing Agenda In A New Era Of Sustained Growth

The Subdivision and Developers Association, Inc., (SHDA), in partnership with the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), is hosting its 2010 NATIONAL DEVELOPERS CONVENTION today and tomorrow at LYZHIEL HOTEL, BACOLOD CITY.

SHDA is the major organization of horizontal and vertical housing developers in the Philippines. SHDA has always been at the forefront of all matters and concerns affecting the developers in the country. Through its partnership approach, SHDA serves as the primary representative of the developers in dealing with the executive and legislative bodies of the government and has earned the respect of all sectors in its continued and exerted efforts to initiate the National shelter programs. In the pursuit of its vision and mission, SHDA has initiated various advocacies and conducted activities aimed towards the achievement of its goal in addressing the country's housing need thus, making a difference in the scale of real estate.

In compliance of the convention theme "*The Housing Agenda In A New Era of Growth*", SHDA will continue to explore new ways and means in the pursuit of its the advocacies in order that the flourishing growth in the housing industry is sustained.

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President

Message

My warmest greetings to the officers and members of the **Subdivision and Housing Developers Association, Inc. (SHDA)** as you hold your Annual National Developers Convention, in cooperation with the **Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC)**.

It is integral, for every developing nation, to be capable of supporting its growth with the proper infrastructure. We would thus be congratulating you for having chosen the theme, "Key area company name" and be on the forefront of the changes that the country is aspiring for.

We have embarked upon a journey of transformation - to pursue good governance, to implement sound medical reform, and to finally put the Filipino people on top of the national agenda. The full huge responsibility, and no individual can do this alone. Thank you for being part of our movement for change.

The situation is not what it was before - Pointe no routing recognize how we always step back to the principles that inspire us to take the straight path, and allow us to hold the course despite the challenges we might encounter.

Congratulations and may you have a fruitful convention!

BENIGNO C. AQUINO III

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Message

My warmest felicitations to the officers and members of the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association, Inc. (SHDA) on the occasion of your National Developers Association.

A gathering of the country's real estate developers, this event will focus on the housing sector as a priority area of the present administration under His Excellency President Benigno C. Aquino III as dissemination of best information and advancement of knowledge among the participants.

The theme, "The Housing Agenda in a New Era of Sustained Growth" has certainly come this year as a trigger point with renewed optimism with the new government which strongly pushes for intelligent land use as a prime tool for economic progress and national development.

As the country's largest and leading organization of housing developers, SHDA has the capacity and credibility and ability for national and can also serve as a key ensemble in concerns administrative and sustainability.

I likewise commend the Housing and Urban Development and Coordinating Council (HUDCC) for its willingness to work in tandem with various housing organizations for activities such as the National Developers Convention.

May the Almighty Father continue to strengthen your organization in the service of our people.

Congressman ROBERT S. ACEBEDA
Chairman
Committee on Housing and Urban Development

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the Vice President

Message

I wish to congratulate the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association, Inc. on occasion of its National Developers Convention 2010.

It is quite fortunate that you have picked the event to showcase developments in the housing industry and to discuss pressing trends and best practices. I hope that through this undertaking you will be able to strengthen relations between the private and government sectors and coalesce your efforts to achieve your goals.

I hope that you will be able to share your views as reflected by this year's theme, "Housing Agenda in a New Era of Sustained Growth". I trust that through your presentation you will be able to find ways of further boosting the industry and assisting a steady, progressive and sustainable housing landscape.

I wish the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association, Inc. every success as you undertake every step yourself toward its growth and prosperity. May you continue to achieve more accomplishments in the years to come.

Again, congratulations and thank you very much.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

JEJOMAR C. BINAY
Vice President and Chairman
Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council

Message

On behalf of the **Subdivision and Housing Developers Association**, I would like to express my congratulations to all the participants of the 2010 SHDA-HUDCC National Developers Convention, most especially to the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) for its unwavering support and cooperation to our association.

It is interesting to know that the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association has already reached its 40 magnificent years of existence in the industry. Moreover, SHDA has continued to play a role as partners of the government not only in addressing the country's housing need but also in the attainment of our overall development objectives.

The convention theme, "The Housing Agenda in a New Era of Growth" is reflective of this association's commitment to continue responding to economic endeavors and opportunities, to enhance development for a sustained growth in our country's real estate industry. Your association will also continue to be at the forefront of promoting ways the industry and executing reforms for the welfare of its members and communities as well.

I therefore assure all industry players in both the private and government sectors to join hands in providing for many of our countrymen access to affordable homes.

My sincerest gratitude and appreciation is all the members and industry partners for their commitment and support to this association.

Looking forward to a fruitful and productive convention.

Congratulations and Mabuhay!

MANUEL C. ONGSITCO
National President

Message

I would like to extend my heartfelt greetings to all the participants of the 2010 SHDA-HUDCC National Developers Convention. It is a fact that the role of the private sector in assisting the government for the successful implementation of its Housing Program remains of utmost importance. Through the years, SHDA is strong partnership with the government has been grounded on its commitment to provide decent, quality and affordable shelter for every Filipino Family.

This year's theme "The Housing Agenda in A New Era of Sustained Growth" is a recognition of the Association's continuous effort for a sustainable housing industry growth. With great challenges ahead of us, I am confident that through concerted efforts and collaboration of both the government and private sectors, a climate of sustained growth of our country's housing industry will prevail.

And to all our members and partners in the industry, we would like to express our continued gratitude for your support to almost all the activities and advocacies of our association.

I look forward to an interactive and fruitful event.

Congratulations and Mabuhay kayong lahat!

BRIAN C. CHOA
Chairman

Message

I would like to express my warmest greetings and appreciation to all the participants of this year's National Developer's Convention which is one of the most awaited events of the housing sector and characterized by our very own Subdivision and Housing Developers Association.

This year's theme, "Housing Agenda in a New Era of Sustained Growth" is very timely as the housing sector has been one of the leaders who are ready to take over from the previous regime and bring the sector to new borders.

Real and massive among these new leaders is our very own Vice President, the Honorable Jejomar Binay, who was recently appointed Chairman of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council. This rooted to a welcome development for the sector as Vice President Binay not only brings with him the clear goal of providing for masses with their own houses. He also has the experience and expertise in achieving this goal given his vast wealth of experience in heading one of the country's most successful local government units, Makati City.

Moreover, I also see the convention as an avenue for us to bring forth various concerns and opportunities that face an aspect on the housing sector, including the pressing issue on the socialized housing program, the implementing guidelines of the Real Estate Services Act, incentives for housing from the Board of Investments, legislative measures to fast track housing development and issues that may affect the sector's most reliable source of liquidity, the Pag-Ibig Fund.

I therefore would like to enjoin everyone to actively participate and contribute to make this convention a truly worthwhile and meaningful activity.

LEOTERIO S. CORONEL
1st Vice President and
Chairman, Convention Committee

CONVENTION PROGRAMME

'Zaldy suggested sacrificing Unsay'

From page A1

only Unsay who did this. I can't afford to be inside the jail," Subao quoted Zaldy as saying.

The elder Ampatuan was then under military custody in Camp Pendetun, Datu Piang, Maguindanao but still attending to him.

'Don't be in a hurry'

The patriarch reportedly told his son "don't be in a hurry" and assured him that he would talk to former Philippine Postmaster, a legal advisor of the family.

Nasa na then ordered by Andal Ampatuan Jr. ... if you remember Attorney Nemen," said Subao, referring everyone by directly addressing Pentay in the rear house.

Reyes had to intervene and ordered the witness not to address the defense lawyer directly.

Subao said that the simpatico patriarch had ordered him to tell Unsay, who stayed the kidnapping of Camp Pendetun, Datu City, but he refused to do so

SC upholds guilty verdict on Abadilla 5

From page A1

Gozar, Fortuna and Augusto Ramos guilty of killing Abadilla.

The five, collectively known as the "Abadilla 5," had claimed innocence and accused their police captors of forcibing them into admitting the crime.

Three of the appellants presented clear and convincing evidence showing the physical impossibility of their being at the crime scene," the Supreme Court said in a 76-page decision penned by Associate Justice Martin Villarama Jr.

"Hence, the trial court and the CA did not err in rejecting their common defense of alibi," the decision said.

The ruling was voted 10-4 in favor of the CA ruling.

Chief Justice Renato Corona and Associate Justices Presbitero Velasco Jr., Teresita Leonardo-de Castro, Arturo Brion, Diosdado Peralta, Mariano del Castillo, Jose Perez, Lucas Bersamin and Jose Mendoza concurred with Villarama's decision.

Associate Justices Antonio Carpio, Conchita Carpio-Morales, Mario Guerdo, Roberto Abad and Ma. Lourdes Sereno said Rodolfo Mariano did not participate as he was the solicitor general at the time when the appellate court rendered the case.

No parole

The Supreme Court also sustained the lower court's decision denying the five's plea to avail themselves of parole.

It reduced the moral and exemplary damages from P1 million to P100,000, while increasing the civil indemnity from P50,000 to P75,000.

Activist priest Robert Reyes, who has been campaigning for the acquittal of the accused, expressed dismay over the Supreme Court ruling.

"We will not stop fighting for justice for the Abadilla 5. How can we let innocent people rot in jail?" Reyes told the Inquirer in a mobile phone interview. "I am appalled and disturbed by the result of a serious deliberation. I will continue to work for the release of these five innocent men."

Witness' credibility

In their appeal, the accused questioned the credibility of lone witness Freddie Alejo, who identified them in an out-of-court lineup, together with several police officers. The Supreme Court, however, found "nothing irregular" in the procedure as Alejo had also positively pointed to them during the trial.

"We have held that the inadmissibility of a police lineup identification should not necessarily foreclose the admissibility of an independent in-court identification," the high tribunal said.

Moreover, it noted how Alejo "vividly recounted" the participation of the accused in the crime and that his proximity to the crime scene aside from a reliable eyewitness.

Acts Defendants and Inquirer point to unanimous which proved that the recovered spent shells and slugs were not from the pistols recovered from the five, the Supreme Court ruled that there was "inconclusive and non-indispensable."

Dissenting votes

It said it was possible that .38 caliber firearms were used in the killing of Abadilla.

In his dissenting opinion, Carpio noted "gross violations" of the constitutional rights of the accused and that Alejo had made "belatedly flawed identifications."

He said the prosecution failed to prove that the five were guilty beyond reasonable doubt. "There is sufficient reason to doubt the guilt of the accused for the crime charged ... Accordingly, I vote to grant the appeals and acquit all the accused," he said.

"Accordingly, the presumption of innocence in favor of the accused prevails ... Therefore, the accused are entitled to an acquittal," Carpio argued.

Abad, in his dissenting opinion, said, "I have more than reasonable doubt to not being able to by Alejo's testimony. Those who saw the daylight shooting of Colonel Abadilla did not know the assassins by face."

BEYOND REASONABLE DOUBT: The five were charged with the killing of former military intelligence officer Rolando Abadilla appear before a Quezon City Regional Trial Court in this June 2000 photo. INQUIRER FILE PHOTO

WHAT WENT BEFORE: Abadilla 5

ON JUNE 15, 1995, retired Col. Rolando Abadilla, a decorated military intelligence officer during the Marcos dictatorship, was ambushed and killed as he was driving his car on Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City. He was 54.

In a statement issued to media, the communist leader Jose Maria Sison said Abadilla was "particularly notorious for his crimes against people who had been victimized by martial rule."

Abadilla's fellow police arrested witness driver Joel de Asis on Sunday, June 25, citing information provided by security guard Freddie Alejo, who claimed to have witnessed the killing.

Tortured by police, De Asis implicated his neighbors—Gerardo Lumasag, Rizamore de Jesus, Cesar Fortuna and Augusto Gozar—in the crime, leading to their arrest. All five came to be known as the "Abadilla 5."

Lumasag and Fortuna were tagged as the masterminds, and the three others the lookouts.

Police claimed confessions from the five suspects, who all said they had been tortured to in admitting the crime. They said they were forced to sign deceptive affidavits, which gave the "stolen testimonial" to prosecutors, who denied the allegations of torture.

On August 1995, despite allegations of torture by the accused and the admission of inconsistency by the AFP, Judge Jaime Salazar of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court found the Abadilla 5 guilty beyond reasonable doubt and sentenced them to death.

The case was submitted to the Supreme Court for automatic review.

In 2002, Lumasag, who was suffering from severe kidney problems, was transferred from the national penitentiary in Muntinlupa to the National Kidney and Transplant Institute in Quezon City for dialysis sessions. He returned to prison in 2004, a year after posting a bail bond.

In 2008, the Supreme Court transferred the case in view to the Court of Appeals.

In a 76-page decision dated April 1, 2008, the appellate court affirmed the trial court's conviction, saying the identifications by a lone witness was enough to uphold a guilty verdict. Citing the abolition of capital punishment, it reduced the death sentences imposed by the RTC to reclusion perpetua (imprisonment of up to 40 years) without possibility of parole.

The Hong Kong-based Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) denounced the conviction, saying that most of the five men had committed any other serious crime. The sentence could have been reduced and the five convicts afforded the opportunity of parole, it said.

Activist priest Robert Reyes has been campaigning for the release of the Abadilla 5. On June 16, 2009, the AHRC published his 180-page book about the continuing struggle of the convicted families. The book contained 10 exhaustive interviews with three wives, children, friends, relatives and other witnesses. Inquirer Research

Source: Inquirer Archives

THE PREMIER CONTACT CENTER EVENT JUST GOT BIGGER!

INTERNATIONAL CONTACT CENTER CONFERENCE & EXPO 2010

The Philippines @ Center Stage

SEPTEMBER 28-29, 2010 SMX CONVENTION CENTER, MANILA

The Philippines has become the leading and preferred destination for contact center services in the world. This positions the Philippines as the best venue for the International Contact Center Conference and Expo.

As the biggest contact center event, it combines an industry conference tackling key industry issues and trends, a training and development program delivered by industry CEOs and experts, the largest exhibit of the latest products and solutions, and a job fair for industry professionals and fresh graduates.

Experience why the Philippines is the most preferred and largest contact center destination.

If you want to learn how excellent contact center services should be done, the International Contact Center Conference and Expo is your must-attend event!

Who Should Attend
- Chief Executive Officers
- Directors and Executives
- Call Center Managers
- Operations Directors/Managers
- Customer Service Heads
- HR Directors/Managers
- IT and Network Managers
- Workforce/QA Managers
- Investors and Entrepreneurs

How You Will Benefit
- Learn best practices and case studies from around the world
- Listen to insights from call center veterans and industry experts
- Be updated on the latest trends & issues
- Discover the newest contact center technologies and solutions
- Get the chance to network with industry movers and shakers

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Global CEO Panel Discussion: Opportunities, Challenges, and Directions
Chief executives from multinational contact centers share market opportunities and challenges, such as increased competition, higher client standards, and macroeconomic, socioeconomic and political impact on the outsourcing industry, including a U.S. Bill bringing overseas calls, contributions and role of their Philippine operations in their business, and their corporate plans for 2010 and beyond.

Global Industry Trends Panel Discussion
Top analysts from research firms and leading vendors discuss global industry trends, including new business models, mergers & acquisitions, and new technologies, and global competition between established and emerging outsourcing destinations.

SME Panel Discussion: How to Build Homegrown Global BPO Brands
Despite the success of the Pinoy in the call center outsourcing market, entrepreneurial companies have not yet established themselves as multinational firms recognized worldwide. CEOs of small and mid-sized call center companies talk about the challenges and opportunities of creating and positioning Philippine BPO companies to become global brands.

This is where the action is and where you will learn truly world-class best practices from the Industry Leaders!

MANAGING A DISTRIBUTED WORKFORCE
Speaker: Bikash Pareek
President and CEO, SPI Technologies

CREATING THE ULTIMATE CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE
Speaker: Dave Rizzo
President for Asia Pacific, TeleperformanceSpeaker:

DETECTING AND PREVENTING FRAUD IN THE CALL CENTER
Speaker: Tim Boyce
Sr. Security Manager (APAC), SykesAsia, Inc.

REDUCING COST WITHOUT SACRIFICING SERVICE
Speaker: Prabhakar Bhatt
Chief Executive Officer, RNS Phils., Inc.

HOW FAR SHOULD YOU GO TO PLEASE YOUR CLIENTS?
Speaker: Sree Subramaniam
Country Manager, Transcom Worldwide (Phils.), Inc.

MANNING CROSS-SELLING
Speaker: Jeff Ulrich
Director & Country Head, ORIX Phils., BBO

THRIVE NOT JUST SURVIVE: HOW TO TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR CAREER AND PERSONAL LIFE
Speaker: Roger Cabanes
The Primera Club Publishing Phs. Ltd.

CHANGE MANAGEMENT IN AN ENVIRONMENT OF CONSTANT CHANGE
Speaker: Bong Borja, President
Aegis PeopleSupport, Inc.

DEVELOPING A CULTURE OF SUCCESS
Speaker: Benedict Hernandez
Sr. Executive and BPO Service Delivery Operations Lead, Accenture

EMERGING CHALLENGES FOR PEOPLE MANAGERS IN CALL CENTERS
Speaker: Atty. Rico de Guzman
Senior Partner, ACCRALAW Offices

5 Easy Ways to Register
1 Telephone (632) 885-7560
2 Mail
3 Fax (632) 665-1424
4 Email
5 Event Website www.icce2010.com
Contact Person: Liberty Ochoada - One Outsource Direct

Register NOW!

SPONSORS: accenture, AVAYA, CISCO, Globe, IBM, SAP

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Dehesa

SPORTS

Tamaraws gun for title slot vs Archers today

By Jacinto W. Paye

FOR FEU Emerging Powers, the path to the UAAP men's basketball Finals isn't as easy as it looks.

Although the Tamaraws hold all the edge, coach Glenn Capacio sees La Salle as a big hurdle in FEU's bid to end the five-championship lean today.

"We have the advantage in experience, but they're (Archers) a hungry team," said Capacio. "They're young, aggressive and they want to prove something."

The Tamaraws, the No. 1 seed and toting a twice-to-beat edge, plan to get the job done quickly against the fourth-seeded Archers at the start of the Final Four at 4 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum.

Reigning titlist Ateneo, the second seed also needing to win just once to return to the Finals, takes off in a two-of-three series versus No. 3 Adamson at 4 p.m. on Sunday also at the Big Dome.

The Tamaraws boast an impressive 12-2 elimination run anchored on league MVP Mr. Garcia, Aldrech Ramos, Nef Cervantes and Rookie of the Year Terrence Romeo.

But La Salle coach Dindo Pumaren pointed out that one of the Tamaraws' two losses came against the Archers.

And that's the way he wants it to be, recalled the Tamaraws, 80-66, in the second round. Pumaren said the Archers have a shot at dishing a return whiz-all showdown.

"We have to be very aggressive," said Pumaren, who's leaning on Simon Atkins, Mikal Villanueva, Jeron Teng, Jason Salcedo, Luigi Trillo, Rey Nambatac and Jardan Tampus.

"The thing, though, Capacio expects his Tamaraws to match the Archers' energy.

"In our last game, we got disrupted with their pressure defense, we weren't able to react," said Capacio. "But now we must be able to penetrate, no matter the pressure."

The Tamaraws won their first meeting, but sweated Gaudel's endgame heroics to escape with a 66-64 double-overtime triumph.

Pumaren said his Archers are back in top form even after losing the eliminations tiff, tucked-to-tuck losses for 10-4 record.

In another play, University of Santo Tomas runs a second win against reigning titlist season 3-0 finish with series at 1-1 a-an.

The Tiger Cubs own the opener, 77-73.

ALLOUT: Ateneo Eagle Chelli Jose (in the hallway) and FEU's defenders salvage the Tams' crater the UAAP Season 73 Archers today

Corteza rules Predator tilt, pockets P57M

By Ronnie Nathaniel

LEE IVAN Corteza wrapped up a scintillating run in the Predator Sweet 16 tournament by whipping American Rodney Morris, 8-3, at The Block in SM City North Edsa, Quezon City Tuesday night.

Corteza mounted a roaring rally from 0-4 down, sizzling off seven racks in a row to get to the 8th before Morris grabbed one back for a 7-5 count.

But Corteza was not to be denied and took the final rack to pocket the top prize of 10,000 Euros which is approximately $13,000 (about P575,000).

Corteza had earlier ripped Australian Charles Williams, 8-1, in the semifinals in which the two-time Filipino pot topped just a total of six breaks and runouts in the eight games he won.

The tournament was cut short last year by Ignite due to drunkenness and strong winds that halted play. The Last 16 was hosted by long-time billiards patron Jr. Emilian "Bardo" Chua at the Eastcut Mini Shopping Center in Grace Village, Quezon City.

Negros billiards patron Jonathan Sy said Corteza's victory "proves once again that the Filipino can be at par with the world's best cue artists."

Meanwhile, local players entered all six slots up for grabs to the three qualifying for the main event, the Predator Championship.

Jack Lucero, Rubeyn Cueto, Sid Pop-ong, Dumonbower Palpal, Andy Villanueva and Jocelyn Aquino joined pool legends Efren "Bata" Reyes, Francisco "Django" Bustamante, No. 2 seed Dennis Orcollo, Roberto Gomez and Corteza in the Predator 10-Ball event scheduled to start last night also at The Block.

Pacman does road work, skips training

By Ronnie Nathaniel

AFTER A morning jog, Manny Pacquiao abandoned the rest of his training schedule yesterday at the Johnny Hendo gym in Quezon City, with nobody in his camp knowing why he took the day off.

Pacquiao, who looked good in his workouts on Monday and Tuesday, jogged in the morning then attended the congressional session in the afternoon where he told his chief-of-staff lawyer Franklin "Jong" Gacal that he may look in the evening at his gym on Pingkian Street in Sampaloc, Manila.

Pacquiao had purchased what was once known as the LIMI Gym where Mr. Dodging Bombs owner began to oversee when he was a teenager and constructed a brand new seven-storey building named MP Training Center on the site.

Conditioning trainer Alex Ariza, who arrived on Monday, said there was no need to rile him to get any pressure on Pacquiao to push himself in training for his showdown with Juanito Bhangorro on Nov. 13 in the Dallas Cowboys Stadium in Texas.

Longtime boxing man and TV analyst Mike Libero said Pacquiao "doesn't need to train hard as yet as long as he does his regular activity every morning to strengthen his physical conditioning."

Both Ariza and Libero believe that once his training camp officially opens next Monday, Pacquiao would be training relentlessly in mind.

Pacquiao is scheduled to leave for Gentlan today then return to resume training the next day. Celebrated trainer Freddie Roach is scheduled to arrive on Sunday.

While Jobo Cesar Chavez is pulling out of his trip to the Philippines with his Top Rank stable with WBO light middleweight champion Miguel Cotto unlikely to push through, Roach will depend on the regular Pacquiao sparring partners for ringwork.

The sparmates are 29-year old Rachid Ouchbouni (13-1-1, 5 KOs), who is a solid welterweight prospect, unbeaten junior middleweight Moses Mesongcopan, 24, who is 24 and stands 6-foot tall and promising Glen Tapia (7-0, 5 KOs), 20-year-old prospect out of New Jersey.

FED LEAGUE

It's Riviera vs Valley

RIVIERA AND Valley came from behind to pull off two-shot victories at their home courses and a tango showdown for the 2010 Metro Federation League golf championship.

Losing 2-3 in their away game, the Riviera ladies boosted their singles and foursomes total to 5-0 sweep of unit counters Forest Hills the next day to advance to the title clash and double their battle's fourth league crown.

After Grace Iskandar, Sherri De Ayala and Rita Lustadio-Benitez each scored 4&2 decisions, Lizi Velasco-Wong, Cherylyn Reyes scored a 4&2 win to ensure a playoff before Pepot Virgo-Dizon Sarmiña clinched the victory with a 3&2 result.

Riviera will defend the title with Valley which shot past Eastridge. Eastridge took a big 3.5-1.5 lead at home and tore its best ball past 12-tee Pasquin-Torres Lee best by three strokes to keep hopes alive.

Valley's Richard Kho and Ronnie Mendiola, however, battled back to secure the last three holes, and earned the squad into a sudden-death playoff. Chino Reyes rewarded their feat over by holing a birdie putt to clinch the championship with Zaldy Villanueva and Rolf Parsons.

GET A CHANCE TO WIN ONE OF 12 ALL-EXPENSE PAID TRIPS FOR 2 PERSONS!

SHANGHAI EXPO JACKPOT

Every P3,000 cash or charge single receipt purchase of any HCG bathroom fixture or accessory in participating distributors nationwide entitles you to a raffle coupon. The sooner and the bigger your purchase the better your chances of winning.

RAFFLE PRIZE

- Round trip plane tickets for two (2) pax
- Twin sharing hotel accommodation 4 days, 3 nights with free breakfast
- Land transfers (airport to hotel)
- One day Shanghai City tour
- Entrance tickets to the Shanghai World Expo 2010, and photo-ops at the HCG Flagship Showroom
- US$300 pocket money per couple
- Chinese Visa processing fees
- Prize is convertible to cash and tax-free

PROMO PERIOD: JULY 15 TO OCTOBER 16, 2010

HCG "I can See Here."

CONGRATULATIONS to the Shanghai Expo Jackpot first draw winners!
Maria Torres from Sampaloc, Manila & Jose Jaring from Bololan, Zambales.

Adamson, SSC-Excelroof V-League showdown under way

GAMES TODAY (MOA Flying V Arena)
2 p.m.—BTO vs. Philippine Air Force for 3rd
4 p.m.—Adamson vs. DLSU (Game 2 of Final Four)

By Cedrill P. Tapus

MANILA! TO join an elite clash circle at least two Shakey's V-League titles, Adamson and San Sebastian Recoletos must today their best defense champ-ionship series of the Season 7 Second Conference at the MOA Flying V Arena in San Juan.

Game One is at 4 p.m. with the Lady Falcons holding a huge psychological edge after sweeping their eliminations and quarterfinal round meetings with the Lady Stags.

With established favorite of Team Tuna skipping the tournament, both Adamson and San Sebastian underscored their pre-tournament billing by topping the eliminations and quarterfinal round.

San Sebastian swept the Eastern U in two games in the semifinals, although their series-clinching victory was marred by an unsportsmanlike call in Game 2.

Dragged by Lyzamyn to their new battle prevailing to Game 3 of their Final Four showdown, the Lady Falcons displayed their depth in a convincing three-set win that trumped up the series last Sunday.

"If we continue to play our style, I think we'll have a good chance of winning," said Adamson coach Oxlee Perez.

The Lady Falcons come away with a five-set victory over the Lady Stags in the second round. But the tension was palpable between the two teams as the Lady Stags walked away from the court when several Adamson players approached them for the post-game handshake.

Some Adamson and San Sebastian players were also seen trading words during the game.

Bonus-seeking JRU destroys EAC five

By Cedrill P. Tapus

JOSE RIZAL U gave new Emilio Aguinaldo College coach Garry Espinosa a rude welcome as the Bombers crushed the Generals, 75-58, yesterday to boost their bid for a semifinal bonus in the fifth NCAA basketball tournament at the FIBA Flying V Arena in San Juan.

Perez Jumaod John Lopez erased 14 points on a perfect 6-for-6 shooting clip as the Final Four-bound Bombers turned out victorious after a strong start to pick up their record to 11-4.

While two thirds and lost his bonuses need just two minutes to secure the semifinal bonus, the Bombers could strengthen their chances with an upset over the unbeaten Jose coachbound.

Lopez also kept in hopes for a playoff for the last Final Four slot as the Knights bucked over a 72-69 victory over the St. Benilde Blazers in the first game.

"Our line is not in our hands anymore," said Lopez coach Jaime Jacinto, after the Knights notched their sixth victory in 14 games that put them two and a half games off the pace.

A Mapua win against San Sebastian on Monday or a Letran loss to Jose Rizal on Sept. 24 will make the Final Four race.

JRU coach Nenjel Mendoza felt the Bombers needed a "turnaround victory" to solidify their status as a title contender.

"It's about time we win big," said Mendoza, who admitted having mixed feelings about the victory because Espinosa is a close friend.

Espinosa, taking over the coaching reins only this week, watched as the Generals surrendered 19 of the game's first 21 points to the Bombers.

In junior action, Jose Rizal tapped Emilio Aguinaldo, 81-76, to grab a share of fourth spot with Letran, which dropped a 63-76 decision to La Salle Greenhills.

ST BENILDE gunner Carlo Lastimosa runs into the defense of Letran's Aloysius Taplah. The Knights kept their Final Four hopes alive with a victory over the Blazers yesterday. NONOY NERA DIAZ

Smart Gilas rips Japan's Phoenix in China tilt

By Jun Navarro

SMART GILAS Pilipinas doubled Japan Hamamatsu Phoenix, 98-72, behind the prolific efforts of Marcus Douthit and JC Casio yesterday at the start of the 4th Asian Basketball Association Club Championship in Nanning, China.

Douthit, the country's candidate for naturalization, dominated the paint with 21 points and 13 rebounds while the reinforcing Japanese 6'8 center also had 21 points and three assists to lead the 12th time champions.

"It's a good start and I hope the team could sustain its showing," said Smart Gilas manager Frankie Lim.

The Filipinos jumped on Phoenix with a 24-19 start but saw the lead quickly dissipate as the Japanese countered a victorious assault that allowed them to take a 39-37 edge at the half.

Douthit then buckled down to work, improving his lead with 10 boards in the dividend area and converting chief lumpers Jeric Teng's pinpoint passes and Jeff Chan's free possession markings problems for Phoenix.

Casio evoked the Japanese defense with his consistent jumper and converted 7 field goals while Jeff Chan's 6 and Jewel Ponce with 5 each doubled with an assortment of shots in the second half for a 62-50 Gilas advantage in the third period.

Phoenix showed signs of recovery through its shooters but the Filipinos didn't lose focus until the final frames.

Smart Gilas utilized three key players in the 12-man tournament.

Mauricio Lasaten went to the US to rehabilitate an injured knee while center Aldrech Ramos and shooting guard JR Quiwa are playing for the FEU Tamaraws in the UAAP.

Smart Gilas also lost three players—Rabeh Al-Hussaini, Ray Guevarra and RJ Jazul—after one game.

Informatics stops UM's Naascu victory streak

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MARK MONTEJANO scored an underdog call his own offensive rebound in the closing seconds as Informatics trounced University of Manila, 88-86, yesterday and bolstered its semifinals chances in the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities at the UM Quiapo.

Montejano, a 6-foot-3 power forward from Quezon City flicked in the rebound with 4.2 seconds left. The Hawks' Eugene Torres attempted to foul his team's call but his three-pointer went off-target as time expired.

The loss snapped three 10th triumphs against four losses. They need to win one more to make the Final Four cutright.

The loss didn't hurt UM much. The Hawks are already assured of a semifinal berth after a rolling on a 9-game winning streak. The Hawks could very well take the No. 1 spot which comes with twice-to-beat incentive with another victory.

But it was more of a consolation for Informatics especially because it also downed another outright semifinalist in STI, 63-64, last Tuesday.

UM, which suffered only its second defeat in the season, was leading most of the way until complacency got the better of it, allowing Informatics to outgun UM in the payoff period, 29-13.

RP Patriots tap Johnson, Little as reinforcements

By Jeremiah W. Pays

THE PHILIPPINE Patriots tapped American linguists Anthony Johnson and Donald Little to boost their title defense bid in the Air Asia Asean Basketball League starting next month.

Johnson suited up in a 90's line-up reinforcement in the late Flyo season, while the 6-foot-11 Little had stints in Fortune, Sunsa, Tinkang Bisaya and Batanes.

The Patriots, mentored by Lonie Sias, see also beefing up their lineup with re-ups, including holding corner Alex Crisano and guard Egay Billones.

"We have seen them good. Johnson is fast, but can beget Little or will have up to his counsel," said team owner Mikee Romero. "We need a swift and agile center, so hopefully Little will be up to the task ahead."

The Patriots open their campaign in the six-nation tournament with a home game against the Bonsai Batangueños on Oct. 3 at the Filoil Sports Arena in Pasig.

GOLF CHAMPS: Members of the Sta. Elena team, headed by PGAP president Ric Co (third from left), join Del Monte Golf Club's final contenders (right) after ruling the Baby division of the PGAP-Lacoste golf championship at Del Monte Golf Club recently. The team members are (from left) Lito Cinco, Marlon Banog, Tomi Leong, Henry Ortigas, Thomie Dalusa and Angie Co.

Arnis National Festival up

A GRAND competition among all arnis exponent nationwide, dubbed the Arnis Philippines National Festival, will be staged on Nov. 8, 13 and 15 at the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City.

Arnis Philippines Inc. (APsi), will host the event.

There are three age categories: children's division (7 to 11 years old), boys and girls (12 to 17 years old and women's division (18 and above).

For inquiries, contact the Arnis Center at 4148758 or e-mail j_sonnydelapalma@yahoo.com.

UGBA Heritage Cup today

FILLMORE Of big favorites Jun to Metro Manila can expect exciting matches on the United Gymnastics Boosters Association (UGBA) Heritage Cup Regional Jr. Dog Derby tomorrow today at Meralco's.

Leading the entries are Pinoy Big Event champion Emil Dias and last-time Brand Station champion Honey Fe, among others.

For details, call 6887500 /7887444 or 3006 0882/911.

Mexico's Margarito must save himself

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

EIGHT AND savage, it will be loss and fantasy, like a cockfight.

This was the reply to the comic birthday poem, written Alejandro Reyes (Marcelo en Lalaki ng Lusaang), salutes the celebrated author asked about the chances of Antonio Margarito against super doctor Manny Pacquiao.

"Walang salbong yan, inipalam agad! Like a derby cock-eater, they will promptly death!" the supreme master expressed.

* * *

The truth, added the savaying boxing critic, is that Margarito (kapapasa) at ba sa pamamahay ngayon sumusuka ("Nakakasuka masakit kasi ako!" ang sabi). Ito nanay kargan, defense and other learn at his in the dugout.

Reyes asserted: "This must be the reason behind the stuffed odds against Margarito, he is physically unsuitable to continue.

He was my, of course.

How is the world can he do this?

He can vamp one of his old predictable talk.

There's not very easy.

Yes, indeed, it could be now to impossible.

Another's else how rising to my?

He must avoid being sucked into the against-United states attack.

* * *

This dialogue took place on Tuesday during the birthday bash of multi-awarded poet-novelist, the Poet Jacob at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines in Sta. Mesa, Manila, where the pride of Bulacan reaches life and literature.

With poet Rogelio Ordoñez, revolutionary writer with leadership in the Mind-POR on his hands a total of 805 points or a 30-point advantage over second runner-up Jacinto Medrano.

Trail-second top-ranked poet Reyes (Marcelo en Lalaki ng Lusaang) is the Nonoalo St. Border class with 312 points and a win still from only chance for the De La Salle-Zobel high school sophomores.

Recently translated, it's a call on the masses that continued to be ebonied and exploited to rise and put an end to capitalist oppression.

"Lima na ay sabra na / Gising na kapatid, tara / Pumila at tayuin / ang bukid na ating bitin."

* * *

Meanwhile, it was reported that, on Monday, President Aquino used Facebook to announce a supreme moratorium who passed a love anniversary? Ms. Petrolina, something to reaction to do?

The letter, from Boys Bumble, which he Aquino for bungling the hostage-taking crisis and the anniversary of his Cabinet, was also a clear call to save Aquino from himself.

So, going back to boxing, is there a way Margarito can save himself from Pacquiao's overpowering love-videos-the-left-cage?

"Sir (Margarito) must refuse to be rescued and swept by Pacquiao's euphoriasm," Rogelio Reyes said.

Refuse possible?

"Hindi, Margarito must use his longer weapon in fists and counterpunch; he also has a fabulous opponent."

But you can reach an old dog new tricks, Reyes asked?

"Sir must try. After all, Pacquiao doesn't happen to be the greatest defender in the world."

All said, it's a mandate for Margarito that, as there's no choice but even a refuge arena, he must fuse on patience and humility to survive in constant desperation.

Otherwise hell and up running is not the hero fallen road blind.

Basti, CJ eye crucial Magnolia kart wins

TEAMS RACING School Racing Career Management Program products Basti Escalante and Christopher Joseph "CJ" Dual try to battle rivals older characters this Sunday in the sixth leg of the 2010 Magnolia Horsemen Karting Super Series at Clark International Speedway.

Escalante hopes to pursue his championship in the Rotax Max Junior class, while Dual aims to win in the Rotax Max Senior class.

La Salle bet seeks 2nd victory

LA SALLE'S Alex Tabang aims to prove that his victory last year was no fluke when he faces Emelie Macalinao of PMTC Colleges of Accountancy in De Ceb 69-Honeywell Reality Combat Championship (UBCC) University Challenge on Saturday at the A. Venue Events Hall in Makati City.

The 22-year-old Tabang beat Albert de Guzman by unanimous decision in the first round of their lightweight bouts last year also presented by Cola 45.

The 5-foot-3 Tabang hopes to use the same strategy in the bouts of beating the 5-6 Macalinao in the event also supported by Global Sites, Advanta 101, InterTV and Solas Sports.

Like Tabang, Irish Orillo of STI College is also out to stamp his class in the middleweight class against Glen Bandilo of University of the East.

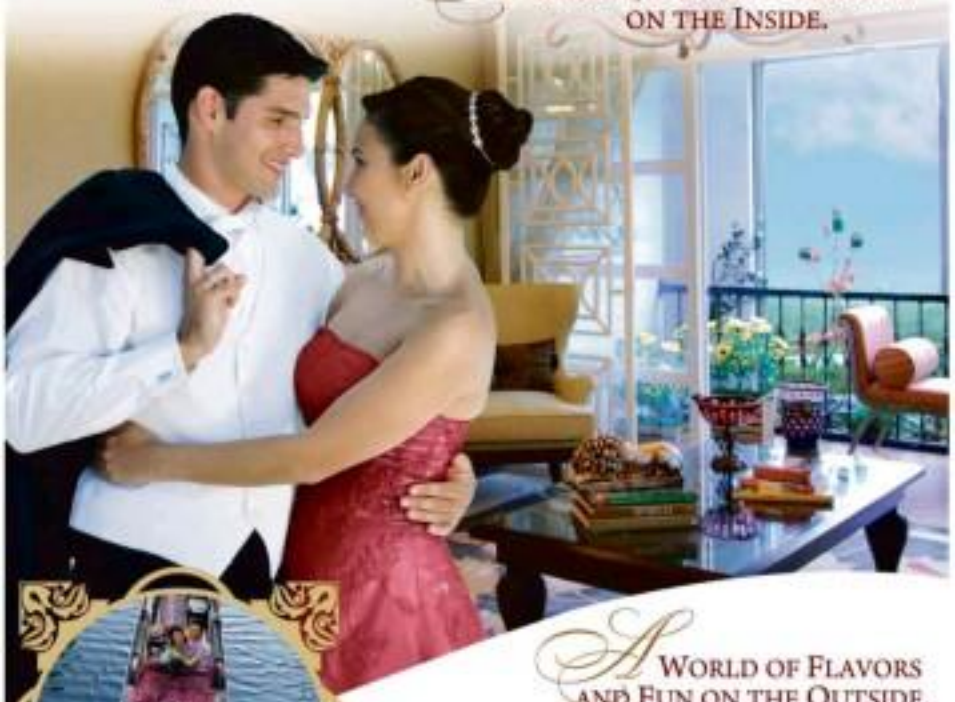
Sanders for his toughness and defensive and speed skills. Orrillo over Paul Andrew Mina-hian of St. Paul College last year.

Tickets, priced at P1000 and 500, are available at Ticket World (891-9999).

THE VENICE

LUXURY RESIDENCES
AT MCKINLEY HILL
Near Forbes Park

A CARING, SOOTHING RETREAT ON THE INSIDE.



A WORLD OF FLAVORS AND FUN ON THE OUTSIDE.

At The Venice at McKinley Hill, you're part of a world so extraordinary, your experiences are managed one moment — and thrilling the next. Inside your home with its breathtaking views, built in absolute luxury. Here, the world is an relaxing, an exciting, time just flows in a stop. And nearby, a Grand Canal offers romantic gondola rides, as the rest of the city simply fades away. When you're ready to set up the pace of your day, all you need to do is step outside. Boasting exceptional dining choices and exciting leisure attractions, The Venice Piazza, now open, keeps you on your feet — and the good times rolling.

Indulge your passion for all the good things in life. The Venice at McKinley Hill.

Live life to the full in a Venetian-style setting:

- Seven-tower community inspired by Italy's famous romantic city, Venice
- Overlooking the first ever, man-made Grand Canal offering authentic gondola rides (availability to be announced later) • One- to three-bedroom suites with balconies
- A third-level plaza deck • With easy access to The Venice Piazza. The Boardwalk's retail strip and the Venetian inspired Rialto Bridge, St. Mark's tower and Doge's Palace • Near embassies, international schools and a cyberpark
- Connected to Bonifacio Global City and the Makati CBD via the exclusive Upper McKinley Road

NOW OPEN AT THE VENICE PIAZZA:

Blackwood Bistro • Cacao • Pizza • Donuts • Figaro • Fresh Magic Lounge • Harry's Bar • KFC • Kuni • Little Asia • McDonald's • My Bar • My Thai • Old Vino • Plus Five • Red Crab • Reyna Barbecue • Sizzling Pepper Steak • Sol Gelato • Starbucks • Sweet Pastry Chef Threaded Co • The Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf • Tokyo Café • Tu Avienda

Visit us at the McKinley Hill Information Center,
Upper McKinley Road corner Pioneer Ave., Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila

Tels: 815-1888 • 816-2768 • 816-3517

MEGAWORLD CORPORATION

www.thevenicemckinleyhill.com

Aplus METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday
Hotline Alert: Text 0917.5555METRO (0917.5555638) | Web site: www.inquirer.net/metro | E-mail: aplus@inquirer.com.ph
Online your feedback: Inquirer staff answer specific messages in SMS

Shabu worth ₱39M seized in QC

2 Chinese men nabbed in buy-bust operation

By Miko Morales

POLICE arrested two Chinese men in a drug buy-bust operation on Tuesday, seizing 10 kilograms of what was later confirmed to be high-grade methamphetamine hydrochloride, or "shabu," worth P39 million.

The illegal drugs were confiscated from Shinsong Gao, 34, and Qinghong Chen, 36, after the suspects accepted money from an undercover agent posing as a buyer on Tomas Tuñao Street corner Timog Avenue in Quezon City, said Chief Supt. Leonge Dejit, commander of task group director of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO).

Dejit told a press briefing yesterday that the police ordered a tip from an informant about the illegal operation.

At the same time, he appealed to people who have information on these activities to help in the fight against illegal drugs for the common good, and not just because of the reward given to informers.

"We did not expect such a big haul," said Supt. Helmut Mollo, head of the NCRPO's narcotics group unit that conducted the buy-bust operation.

Police said the confiscated drugs were placed in nine ziploc bags, each weighing about 1 kg.

Mollo said initial laboratory results showed the substance to be high-grade shabu.

Shabu is commonly sold in the streets, repacked in 0.5 grams sachets. The drugs seized Tuesday could have fetched about 18,000 sachets, said Dejit. Police are still investigating the source of the drugs.

Mollo said the suspects barely spoke any Filipino and have obtained Light Speed.

Judging by the amount of shabu they carried, the suspects appeared to be working for a big group, he added.

The suspects, who will be charged with violations of the country's drug laws, were identified through Philippine driver's licenses they carried.

Dejit said the police are now making a more active role in the anti-illegal drugs campaign in cooperation with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency.

He added that NCRPO Chief Director Leocadio Santiago has stressed the need for intelligence gathering from the penitentiaries as illegal drugs in the community often leading people addicted to the substances to commit crimes.

TOO CROWDED FOR COMFORT
Young dengue patients share mattresses at the Quirino Memorial Hospital pediatric ward in Quezon City. The health department has recorded a huge number of dengue patients in the Metro Manila area alone. More venues is needed hospitals nationwide. (JAMES ALCOY)

QC judge junks Ivler hospital stay motion

By Nancy C. Carvajal

JUDGE Rayner Segoe of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 219 dismissed yesterday a petition of road rage suspect Jason Ivler for hospital confinement, saying the accused was "premature."

Ivler in the petition argued in the killing of Renato Ebarle Jr. during a traffic altercation last year.

Segoe took over the case from Judge Alexander Bahar, of Regional Trial Court Branch 78, after the latter inhibited himself from hearing the case on a request by prosecutors.

The prosecution panel said they have yet to commence on the motion and wants a copy of the court proceedings where doctors testified that Ivler was an immediate need for Ivler to undergo an operation.

"The testimony of the doctors, including the doctor presented by the defense, were in agreement that the accused does not need immediate surgery," state prosecutor Cristina Bravo said.

The prosecution also submitted as oral manifestation that they be allowed to present four eyewitnesses who could positively identify Ivler as the person who shot and killed Ebarle Jr.

State prosecutor Mrs. Cristina Bilbasona said these witnesses were a policeman, a cigarette vendor, a hockey and a fashion model.

Ivler is seeking further medical treatment he granted necessary for sustained when he removed cancer and shot to use with members National Bureau of Investigation agents.

Metro traffic consultant relieved over near-shoot-out at MMDA

By Tina B. Santos

METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Francis Tolentino has relieved traffic consultant Sidney "Bobby" Espinol of his duties, apparently over a dispute that allegedly almost led to a shooting last week between the latter's subordinate and members of the agency's driver.

Apart from Espinol, Tolentino also suspended for 15 days Bat. Col. Eduardo Bayuagas, another consultant of the MMDA Traffic and Transport Management Office (TTMO).

No conclusion against the men directly involved in the dispute, however, were mentioned in the order.

Tolentino said the move was based on the investigation report of Rochelle Bitonguili, MMDA legal division chief, which was used as a supplement to his own letter and investigation.

"The chairman exercised his management prerogative to achieve greater harmony and coordination among the officials and workers of the agency," said a statement issued by the MMDA regarding the investigation of Espinol's non-performance.

"While we commend the previous efforts and accomplishments rendered by Mr. Espinol, we determined that it would be in order to uphold the supremacy in terms of serving the public as well as advancing the interest of the MMDA as an organization," it added.

Espinol served as chief of the Traffic Enforcement Group and the Sidewalk Clearing Operations Group during the term of former MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando.

He was known for his strict policy against encroachment on road right of way and for enforcing tough measures against illegal vendors, billboards and other structures.

Espinol was linked by Tolentino in a traffic consultant, but the move caused criticisms even what seemed to be a dilution of the one-year ban before being candidates may accept government positions.

Espinol's ties for stayed in Newspapers, Bulacan, in the May 10 elections but lost.

According to a source, a shooting nearly occurred following a verbal altercation between Bat. Gen. Desiderio Gaoiran, supervising consultant at the MMDA's TTMO and Bayuagas over "personal issues."

Both of the parties reportedly assigned at Espinol's office, he quiet was not present during the dispute.

Gaoiran allegedly confronted Bayuagas over the use of vehicles impounded by the agency the source said.

Gaoiran then allegedly poached Bayuagas in the chest, prompting another Espinol aide to come to Bayuagas's aid by drawing his gun and poking it at Gaoiran, the source added.

But Bayuagas, who said he was accused during the "confrontation," said no gun-toting nor physical violence was spared.

Off-duty cops told: Don't wear uniforms in malls

By Miko Morales

IN THE WAKE of last week's daring bank heist in Cavite, all police personnel in Metro Manila have been directed not to come to malls in uniformed residents, except in cases while off duty.

The order was issued by Police Director Leocadio Santiago Jr., chief of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), who noted that some soldiers have been using uniforms of the Philippine National Police (PNP) in disguise which has put the organization in a bad light, and caused confusion among the public.

"As a remedial action, effective immediately, all PNP personnel are prohibited to enter the malls or commercial centers in police uniform when not performing official functions to prevent undue alarm," he said in a memorandum sent to all members of the Metro Manila police on Tuesday.

The order was also intended to "delimit the chances of criminal elements from using the similar operandi in perpetrating criminal acts," he added.

The directive was an offshoot of yet another brazen bank robbery in Dasmariñas, Cavite, on Sept. 6, when armed and masquerading police uniforms barged into the Banco de Oro branch at the SM mall at around 10:30 a.m.

The soldiers failed on another robbery which were about to load money into an armoured police mobile. One security guard was killed in the morning gunfight, while two others were injured.

In October last year, a group of bandits using police uniforms robbed a Bukot money changer in Quezon City.

Only police officers on official duty are exempted from the directive, Santiago said.

JOY GRABS HOLD OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY.

Choose from our selection of executive vehicles.
Enjoy special offers for cash buyers and flexible financing terms at zero interest on select units.

BMW Efficient Dynamics

BMW 118i
2010 Titanium Silver

BMW 120i Convertible
2010 Black Sapphire

BMW 318i
2002 Titanium Silver

BMW 325i M Sport
2003 Titanium Silver

BMW 525d Touring
2008 Mystic Blue

BMW 650i Security
2013 Black Sapphire

BMW 630i Convertible
2008 Mineral Silver

BMW 730d
2010 Black Sapphire

BMW 740Li
2010 Deep Sea Blue

BMW X1 sDrive 1.8i
2010 Cashmere Silver

BMW X3 2.0d
2009 Alpine White

BMW X3 2.5si
2007 Black Sapphire

BMW X3 3.0d
2010 Mineral Blue

BMW X5 xDrive 30i
2010 Mineral Blue

BMW Z4 sDrive 3.0i
2010 Crimson Red

Autohaus BMW
Prestige Cars BMW

RIGHT OF WAY
Has stroller right trust? It's just as armored personnel carrier about to cross the street inside Camp Crame in Quezon City after a commercial parade held on the grounds. (JAMES ALCOY)

MMDA eyes tougher measure vs drunk drivers

By Tina G. Santos

IN A BID to curb accidents attributed to driving while intoxicated, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) is mulling over the enactment of an ordinance that will require bars, beerhouses and other similar entertainment establishments to limit the sale of alcoholic drinks to customers, particularly those who have to drive home at night.

MMDA Chair Francis Tolentino said he intends to bring the matter to the Metro Manila Council (MMC), the policy-making body of the agency comprised of the 17 mayors of Metro Manila, to drum up support for the MMDA's nationwide campaign to promote road safety.

"Na-ear accidents driving sanhi nga sa sobrang kalasingan. Kaya nga ang gusto natin, kung maaari, ang mga nagbebenta ng alak, mga nightclubs and restaurants that want to have all the freedom in the manner in which they operate should have some kind of control over these business establishments," Tolentino said in a statement.

He noted that most of the drunk drivers they have apprehended or who have figured in accidents were those who just came from a drinking binge at bars and nightclubs.

He added that these establishments are making a killing by offering "best promos" at unimposable low prices, which only encourage customers to buy more and get drunk.

"Those beer barker promos lure customers to drink more. And once they are into it, they forget that they still have to drive home," Tolentino said.

Tolentino said he would form a committee that would go around the perimeters bars and nightclubs in the metropolis to check on the operation of these establishments.

He added these business establishments should limit a strict guideline on sponsorship and determine if a particular customer has already reached his or her maximum alcohol tolerance level.

"We have to know a relationship between the amount of liquor he served and the physical drinks it has on blood alcohol concentration level has already reached, for example, 0.08 percent," Tolentino pointed out.

He said he would discuss the matter with Metro mayors to get support/assent to free time for proposal.

"It is the mayor who will enact ordinances to enforce this scheme in their respective jurisdictions," he added.

To the committee, Tolentino said he has also crafted a thorough study on the legal implications.

"Other countries have stricter laws against drunk driving and have adopted stringent measures such as on the spot breath analysis," he said.

Just recently, Pasiguena Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo filed House Bill 382 which seeks to declare drunk driving a criminal act.

Quoting studies, Arroyo said driving while under the influence of liquor or alcohol puts innocent people at being involved in road accidents.

An objective look at Merci Gutierrez

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

THE SUPREME Court was right in stopping the impeachment proceedings against Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez at the House justice committee.

The House of Representatives can only hear one impeachment case against a constitutional official in one year.

Two impeachment cases have been filed this year against Gutierrez one after the other.

The first one was on July 22 for allegedly sitting on the investigation into the death of a Navy officer and the unsolved — unreported 2008 ZTE deal. The second one on Aug. 5 for allegedly failing to act on the P729-million fertilizer fund scam.

It's not that the impeachment cases have no basis, but that the House justice committee did not follow procedure in hearing impeachment complaints.

The cases should have been filed one at a time in two years.

Obviously, the members of the House justice committee failed to take note of the procedure.

* * *

Pinoys have a high sense of gratitude.

And Merci is not an exception.

Former First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, who fought hard for Merci to be the Ombudsman, was allegedly involved in the NBN-ZTE scandal and the P729-mill. fertilizer scam.

Gutierrez was just returning a big favor from Mike Arroyo when she let Mr. Arroyo charged in the Office of the Ombudsman for the two graft cases.

A typical Pinoy does not forget a report favor.

Depending on whether you are Gutierrez's friend or foe, you would rated or lambast her for dropping the graft cases against Mike Arroyo out of gratitude.

* * *

Former Philippine National Police chief Jesc Avesara didn't follow orders from Malacañang to stop "jueteng."

How could Mertoes follow orders to go against jueteng when he was getting protection?

Malacañang said to stop jueteng, but his boss at the Department of Interior and Local Government, Ronaldo Puno, served any alcoholic drinks if his or Mertoes' alcohol concentration level has already reached, for example, 0.08 percent," Tolentino pointed out.

He said he would discuss the matter with Metro mayors to get support/assent to free time for proposal.

"It is the mayor who will enact ordinances to enforce this scheme in their respective jurisdictions," he added.

To the committee, Tolentino said he has also crafted a thorough study on the legal implications.

"Other countries have stricter laws against drunk driving and have adopted stringent measures such as on the spot breath analysis," he said.

Just recently, Pasiguena Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo filed House Bill 382 which seeks to declare drunk driving a criminal act.

Quoting studies, Arroyo said driving while under the influence of liquor or alcohol puts innocent people at being involved in road accidents.

secretary Rico S. Puno, is partially told him to let Jueteng be.

Puno was Mertoes's backer, the reason he was not removed as PNP chief after the change of administration.

* * *

Newly appointed PNP chief Jesid Bacalso was on the take from jueteng lords, according to a "white paper" purportedly coming from jueteng PNP officers.

C'mon guys, nobody at the PNP is clean when it comes to jueteng.

No PNP chief has been able to stop the illegal numbers game, not even Mertoes.

Even police commanders who did not accept jueteng bribes were still tainted because their subordinates were on the take.

The illegal numbers racket is a big big for the PNP to handle.

The solution is to legalize it.

* * *

Archbishop Emeritus Oscar Cruz, Jueteng's No. 1 opponent, says some parishes are accepting donations from financiers of the illegal numbers game.

The bitsy prelate is right. Men—even women—of the cloth solicit donations for their parishes or convents from jueteng operators.

When I attended the birthday party of my compadre, alleged jueteng lord Bong Pineda, years ago, I saw many priests and nuns among the crowd of well-wishers.

Actually, I find nothing wrong with that, since Bong is not a notorious criminal.

He is not a drug trafficker, he is not a leader of a rub-off or kidnapping syndicate.

Jueteng, of which Bong is an alleged financier, is only a crime because the government has not made the game legal—yet.

Jueteng is no different from cockfighting, sweepstakes, horse racing, lotto and games at the casino, which are all legitimate because laws have been passed making them legal.

Armed men rob Parañaque hotel of day's earnings

By Mike Morales

FIVE men robbed a hotel in Parañaque City past midnight Wednesday of its earnings amounting to P98,000, according to the Southern Police District (SPD).

The robbery occurred around 1 a.m. at Quirino Hotel along Quirino Avenue when one of the suspects entered the hotel lobby and inquired about the area, said Chief Insp. Jessy Tarroja, SPD spokesperson.

As the clerk attended to the request, the suspect drew his handgun and disarmed the victim, while his companions took the cash from the drawer at the counter, police said.

The suspects immediately left the building and hopped on two motorbikes to an undisclosed direction.

Police are conducting a follow-up operation to arrest the suspects.

Welcome to the country's one & only true private cinema.

GREENBELT

SJ settlers assured of relocation site

By Nina Calleja

THE DPWH-NCR, settlers to be displaced by the construction of a P5.08-million San Juan City Hall are assured of a permanent relocation site through the city government's modern-day housing plan, Rep. JV Ejercito said Wednesday.

Some residents and advocacy groups have been opposing the construction of the new city hall on a one-hectare lot near the Pinaglabanan Shrine, claiming that thousands of villagers in Barangay Corazon de Jesus would lose their homes without a definite relocation.

Ejercito, however, clarified that the city government has a concrete plan for their relocation.

"I don't think there's a reason for them to really become we have a long-term plan which needs to be relocating in San Juan," Ejercito told reporters in a press briefing.

Ejercito, further stated of his plan who was replaced by his mother Dona Guiano, said the city government plans to buy at least three hectares of land in the city on which will stand five-story modern-day buildings, each building can accommodate around 150 families.

In collaboration with Pilmico Inc., a housing neighborhood, the construction of the medium-rise buildings will be shouldered by the city government, but the informal settlers must pay from P1,000 to P3,000 as rental fee, Ejercito said.

EXCLUSIVE
NOW ON ITS 2nd WEEK
AT GLORIETTA 4, GREENBELT 3 & TRINOMA CINEMAS
THE AMERICAN
A sexy, suspenseful & powerful story which blends intrigue & passionate romance with searing incredibly tale to finally reveal the heart of a deeply private man.
Glorietta GREENBELT TriNoma

GREENBELT 3 · GLORIETTA
KIOSKING TOWN CENTER
TRINOMA
THX
Viewing
THX Certified Auditoriums
CLEARER SOUND.
SHARPER PICTURES.
BETTER MOVIES.
DON'T JUST SEE A MOVIE.

2 fetuses found in 2 churches

By DJ Yap

TWO FETUSES were discovered within hours of each other in two different churches in Manila on Tuesday night, the police said.

The fetus of a six to seven month-old boy was discovered by a churchgoer at the left side of the Manila Cathedral in Intramuros at around 5 p.m.

It was wrapped in a green plastic bag, said PO2 Jay Ibañez of the Manila Police District Homicide section.

At about 6:45 p.m., another fetus was found inside Quiapo Church, the police said.

The fetus of the seven to nine month-old boy was found inside a red box in the trash bin by Rolando Ilanta, a janitor of the Black Nazarene.

Ilanta told he thought the box contained a bomb.

The two fetuses were brought to the St. Joan Funeral Parlor for embalming.

Tea Party win favors Dems

WASHINGTON—A conservative Tea Party favorite knocked off the establishment choice in Delaware's Republican Senate primary election on Tuesday, dealing a blow to the Republican Party's chances to recapture the US Senate in November.

Upstart Republican candidate Christine O'Donnell scored the biggest in a string of Tea Party upsets this year over nine-term Rep. Michael Castle, a popular former governor and one of the last Republican moderates in Congress.

The loss by Castle, who had been expected to cruise to victory in Delaware's Nov. 2 election, gave Democrats new hope in the state and bolstered their chances to retain control of the Senate.

A Tea Party triumph was a bitter reversal on what it considered a setback in New Hampshire's Republican primary and another Tea Party-backed candidate early in won New York's Republican gubernatorial race.

National and state Republicans had hoped moderate voters would be help Castle defeat O'Donnell and could rest with the November race for the Democratic Senate seat long held by Vice President Joe Biden.

"The people of Delaware have spoken. We must as pilities as one," O'Donnell told supporters at an victory rally. "The voters is sending a message."

Castle is the eighth Senate candidate supported by the establishment Republican campaign committee to lose a primary this year and the result was perhaps the biggest display yet of anti-Washington anger.

The energy of victories by Tea Party candidates was fueled by broad voter dissatisfaction with President Barack Obama and the government in Washington, and left Republicans to turnout.

"Delaware Republicans chose an ultra-right-wing extremist who is out of step with Delaware values," said Democratic Sen. Robert Menendez, who heads the party's campaign committee.

The Republican Senate campaign committee issued a terse one-sentence statement of congratulations on O'Donnell's win. O'Donnell shrugged off the Republican committee would not spend any money on her.

"They don't have a winning track record this season," she told CNN.

The contest in Delaware highlighted the final day of primaries before November, with voters in seven states choosing nominees for the Senate, House of Representatives and governor's races.

In New Hampshire's Republican Senate primary former State Attorney General Kelly Ayotte led Tea Party-backed lawyer Ovide Lamontagne, who had been endorsed by former Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin. O'Donnell, the race backed by Palin.

The Tea Party movement rose on another high-profile race in New York, where political newcomer Carl Paladino easily beat the establishment choice, former US Rep. Rick Lazio, in the Republican gubernatorial primary.

Paladino, who pledges to spend up to $10 million of his own money, will be a huge underdog in the November race against Democrat Andrew Cuomo.

US Rep. Charles Rangel of New York, a veteran of 40 years in the House, survived a Democratic primary challenge despite an ethics scandal. He avoids trial by his House colleagues on 13 alleged violations of House rules.

In the Washington, DC, Democratic primary for mayor, challenger Vincent Gray defeated incumbent Adrian Fenty.

Republicans are threatening to turn every election about the economy and Obama's leadership into big gains in November that could give them control of the House and perhaps even the Senate, once considered a long shot.

Republicans must pick up 10 Democratic seats to reclaim the Senate, and Delaware was once considered to be safely in the Republican column with Castle as the candidate. Without Castle, Democrat Chris Coons, a county executive, becomes at least a slight favorite to win the Senate seat in November.

The Delaware primary fight had gained new urgency after last month's upset of Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska lamented before the point that no lawmaker was safe in a year when voters had lost confidence in establishment.

Reuters

CHRISTINE O'Donnell celebrates her victory in Delaware's Republican Senate primary election. AP/CP

WorldBriefs

Pope travels to Britain amid outrage

VATICAN CITY—Pope Benedict XVI takes his campaign to revive Christianity to an increasingly secular European bastion on Thursday. He faces a standing head-on a nation largely at odds with his policies and whose disgust over the church's sex abuse scandal runs high. Add to that centuries of anti-Catholic sentiment, recent tensions with the Anglican Church and Benedict's plan to beatify one of the most famous Anglican converts to Catholicism, and the four-day trip is shaping up as one of his most delicate to date. AP

Cops fire to clear Koran-burning protest

KABUL—Police fired warning shots to disperse hundreds of stone-hurling Afghans on Wednesday in the streets in a series of protests against Koran burnings in the United States. At least five people were wounded, two in serious conditions. The topic of Koran burning has stirred outrage among millions of Muslims and—many worldwide after a small American church in Florida threatened to destroy the holy book to mark the anniversary of the Sept. 11 terror attacks. Although that church backed down, several copycat burnings were posted on the Internet and broadcast in the Middle world. AP

Bio paints French first lady as 'chameleon'

PARIS—French President Nicolas Sarkozy's marriage to Carla Bruni, an Italian-born fashion model ex-supermodel long considered among the world's most desirable women, was treated as soap for the French insider. But the author of "Carla: A Secret Life"—an unauthorized biography chronicling her transformation from an allegedly bourgeoisie nice-wife into an apparent sleek, model spouse—suggests Carla Bruni-Sarkozy has become something of a political liability for her husband. AP

Who's a family? New study tracks shifting views

NEW YORK—As much as Americans revere the family, they differ sharply on how to define it. New research released on Wednesday shows people increasingly recognize of unmarried couples—gay and straight—as families. But there's solid consensus marking that friend who are more unflappy or make jokes in their definition than same-sex partners. How "family" is defined is a crucial question on many fronts. Beyond the debate over same-sex marriage, it affects income tax filings, adoption and foster care policies, employment benefits, and how children and families view mothers. The new research on the topic is contained in a book-length study, "Counted Out: Same-Sex Relations and Americans' Definition of Family" and is a separate 2010 survey reviewed by the book's lead author, Indiana University sociologist Brian Powell. Reuters

Austin is sexiest US city

NEW YORK—New York, Las Vegas or Los Angeles may seem like more likely choices but Austin, Texas, has been named the sexiest city in the United States in a magazine survey. Dallas-Hollywood Sun delivers also scored high marks in the ranking by Men's Health Magazine that looked at birth rates, condom sales, rate of sexually transmitted diseases and rates of cum toys. But cold weather cities, including Portland, Maine, which came in last and Burlington, Vermont, didn't do as well. Reuters

Smokers shorten wives' lives

WASHINGTON—A study believed to be the first to examine the multiplier effect of good habits on husbands in dozens countries has found that husbands who smoke at home are shortening their wives' lives. The study also found that Chinese women with lots of healthy habits benefit to stronger than their unmarried peers with less healthy lifestyles. Researchers led by Zaochi Mezhou of Vanderbilt University in the United States used data from the Shanghai Women's Health Study, which gathered information on more than 71,000 non-smoking, non-drinking Chinese women aged 30-70 years between 1996 and 2000, and created a healthy lifestyle score. Reuters

12th US air strike kills 12 in Pakistan

MIRANSHAH—US drone planes fired missiles at a compound in Pakistan's northwest region, killing 12 more insurgents on Wednesday in the 12th such strike this month.

The attack, the first in less than 24 hours, was targeted in North Waziristan, a major sanctuary for al-Qaida and Taliban on the Afghan border.

Six local militant leaders were killed and at least 12 militants were killed," a security official told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

Another security official said those killed were "Pakistani Taliban," a term used for militants from the tribal Pakistani province of Punjab, who were working closely with the Haqqani network, one of the feared Afghan militant factions fighting US-led foreign forces across the border.

Named after veteran mujahideen leader Jalaluddin Haqqani, the group is now led by his son Sirajuddin and is closely linked to al-Qaida. North Waziristan is a major base for Haqqani network.

The predawn strike took place in Dandi Darpakhel, a village in the outskirts of North Waziristan's main town of Miranshah.

Security analysts say the intensification in missile strikes, particularly in North Waziristan, could be linked to the delay by Pakistan in launching new anti-Taliban offensives as it struggles to cope with August's devastating floods.

The Pakistani military has diverted more than 60,000 of its men for flood rescue and relief operations through the worst-hit areas it had not redeployed any of the 140,000 soldiers fighting militants in the volatile northwest near the Afghan border.

Pakistan has an estimated force of about 550,000 soldiers.

Washington knows that the Pakistan army could not take any major action in tribal areas for a long time, therefore, they have no other viable alternative to the strategy for remote-controlled air strikes," said Sultanbashir Tawaseen, an expert on Taliban affairs. Reuters

Iran frees hiker

MUSCAT, OMAN—American Sarah Shourd on Wednesday ended Oman's capital on her first full day of freedom. Following a surprise bail deal with Iran that secured her release after more than 13 months in prison.

US and Omani officials said a visa ancient Iran long Shourd would stay in Oman with her mother Nora, or whether she will seek treatment medical attention.

The 32-year-old woman was freed on Tuesday after Oman—a key official both Iran and the West—mediated a deal for $500,000 bail that satisfied Iranian authorities and apparently did not violate US economic sanctions.

Shourd thanked Omani for its role of her exchange as a special royal airport aboard a jet chartered by the authorities. But she has stayed out of the public eye since. AP

Visit the annual premier book event in the Philippines!

The 31st Manila International Book Fair

Words Without Borders

and

A trade fair for school materials, supplies, equipment and facilities

September 15 • 19, 2010 • 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Exhibit Hall, SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City

www.primetradeasia.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ACCREDITATION

The Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), the Principal Recipient in the Philippines of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) TB Grant to the Philippines is inviting qualified local and international organizations to apply for accreditation as a **Procurement Agent for Tuberculosis drugs, health equipment and commodities.** Successful applicants will be eligible to participate in the Tender for Pharmaceuticals and Health Products that PBSP will roll beginning October 2010.

To apply for accreditation, interested organizations must accomplish the following:

1. Letter of Intent
2. Business Registration from country of operation
3. Organizational Profile
4. History or track record in carrying out procurement for projects funded by Global Fund or by other entities, within the Philippines or other countries
5. Testimony or statement of ability to comply with Global Fund policies on procurement (available at the GFATM website : **www.theglobalfund.org**)

Accomplished application forms and relevant documents (either electronic or hard copies) must be submitted no later than **12:00 P.M. Manila time on 20 September 2010** at the address below or sent via e-mail to: **atc_808@yahoo.com** with copy sent to **pbsp@pbsp.org.ph**.

Applicants submitting documents electronically should also send hard copies to the address below not later than **30 September 2010**.

Questions and/or requests for clarification may be sent to:

ARAMING CASTILLO
Administration Team Leader
Philippine Business for Social Progress
PSDC Building, Magallanes corner Real Streets
Intramuros, Manila
E-mail : atc_808@yahoo.com; atc808@gmail.com
Website: www.pbsp.org.ph

PBSP
Philippine Business for Social Progress

supported by
THE GLOBAL FUND

PR2.0 Build. Engage. Deliver

17th National Public Relations Congress
September 23 and 24, 2010
Grand Ballroom, Intercontinental Manila

The PR Practice in the Age of Social Media

Find out what it takes for a practitioner to build advocates, engage consumers and deliver results.

PUBLIC RELATIONS SOCIETY OF THE PHILIPPINES

For registration, call PRSP Secretariat
tel. no. 8-PRSP (7777) or txt 0917-8-PRSP (7777)

SPEAKERS & TOPICS

Tim Sutton
Chairman, Weber Shandwick Asia Pacific
The Role of the PRO (continues #ForAllSeasons) in the New Media

Andrew Thomas
Managing Director and BAS Director
Ogilvy Public Relations Worldwide
PR in a Brand Building

Ben Chavez
Columnist, Philippine Star
Vice President, Group Public Relations, Bangko
Still School Some New School: Traditional Media Practitioner's Take on New Media

Brad Culver
Managing Director, Zeno Group Communications
The Word on Word of Mouth

Margot Turner
Vice President for Marketing, McDonald's
Building Brand Trust

Edwin Lim
Digital Strategist, Mediacom Mind Advance
Developing a PR Strategy for Digital

Jonas Dela Rosa
Brand Manager, Community Building, Yahoo
Brand Advocates and Communities – Trends in Social Media

Lee Rose Bowen
General Manager, Porsche Philippines
Engaging the Consumer

A Day PR in the 24/7 News Media Cycle
Chris Villa
Head, ABS-CBN.com
Eli Ilo, Inq7
News Gathering Head, TV5
Jessica Magbitang
Ass. Web Editor in Chief

Social Marketing – CSR using New Media
Greg Bailey
Founder, BlackGOLD Digital
Ana Del Mundo
Managing Director, SEM

Ellen Tordesillas
Chair, 17th PRSP National Student PR Congress
Young Minds on New Media

Lech Ng
Chief Marketing Officer, Intellabiz
Measuring New Media Effectiveness

Sponsored by
METRO PACIFIC

Media Sponsors
60 Minutes

Like Lorenzo S. Cosco

The WORLD

AMPHIBIOUS vehicles roar in the beach of Incheon in commemoration of the battle that turned the tide of the 1950-53 Korean War. North Korea protested the maneuvers staged by South Korean, American and Australian forces to mark the 60th anniversary of the daring Incheon Landing. AFP/FILE

No quick progress seen in Korea talks

BEIJING—A special US envoy arrived in Beijing on Wednesday for talks on restarting stalled negotiations on North Korea's nuclear disarmament, although he said no quick breakthrough were likely.

North Korea walked out of the six-nation talks last year to protest international censure of its long-range rocket launch. Property for resuming the talks have dimmed after the sinking of a South Korean warship in March.

Americans, South Koreans and Japanese officials have called on North Korea to acknowledge responsibility for the warship's sinking and express a sincere willingness to disarm before the talks resume. North Korea denies it launched a torpedo to sink the warship.

"There is no reason to expect there is going to be a flurry of diplomatic activity in the next few weeks," Ambassador Stephen Bosworth told reporters in Tokyo before flying to Beijing on Wednesday. "It's going to take some time."

Bosworth's trip to Beijing came as North Korea protested Pyongyang's reinstatement by South Korean, American and Australian forces of the battle that turned the tide of the 1950-53 Korean War.

Ships, planes and Marines from the three countries marked the 60th anniversary of the daring Incheon Landing which was led by US Gen. Douglas MacArthur. The landing led two weeks later to the recapture of Seoul from North Korean invaders.

About 14,000 people, including veterans of the conflict from nine countries, joined 12 ships, 30 aircraft and about 200 Marines from South Korea, United States and Australia in the reenactment, which included a mock landing, Marine reconnaissance diving and a fly-past.

North Korea blasted the reenactment as "a farce of the pro-US sycophants and lackeys aimed to whitewash the US reputation," historic of war of aggression."

The two Koreas have remained technically at war since 1953 because the conflict ended with an armistice and not a subsequent peace treaty. US forces have been stationed in South Korea since the fighting ended.

Despite rising tensions on the Korean peninsula, Bosworth said negotiators were not interested in resuming talks until it is clear that North Korea is prepared to make "specific and concrete" actions.

He added that the easing of the lifting of sanctions imposed on the country by the United States, United States and other countries can occur only after the North has shown a willingness to make progress in the talks.

He said discussing lifting sanctions at this point is "very premature."

"I would not rule out the possibility of direct US-DPRK talks," he said, referring to North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. "What is important is to see and allow the only partners in that North Koreans take the talks seriously."

The talks involve the two Koreas, China, Japan, United States and Russia. *Reports from AFP and AFP*

US ENVOY Stephen Bosworth arrives in Beijing. AFP/FILE

Millionaire's slay grips Malaysia

BUKIT KEPONG—Malaysians have been captivated this week by the shooting of a millionaire businessman alleged whose remains were disposed of on a poultry farm owned by two lawyer brothers with an alleged history of shady land deals, according to police.

Settlement Lawyer and three of her sisters went missing late last month. Two MPV were soon later found abandoned outside a Kuala Lumpur apartment building.

It wasn't until earlier this week, however, when police announced that all four were probably murdered, their bodies buried and the sites discovered in streams near the lawyers' property that the case exploded into a full-scale media sensation.

On Wednesday, police examined a vast oil palm estate, which includes a poultry farm owned by one of the brothers, hoping to find evidence linking them to what appears to be a one case of mass murder in Malaysia. A day earlier, investigators linked a knife from a nearby stream and seized computers from the lawyer's office in a nearby town.

The motive for the killings, police say, could be a land deal gone bad, and they are looking into whether the two lawyers may have been involved in other killings. The two have been detained for questioning, but authorities have denied the media frenzy surrounding them until they are charged. The four murders were also unveiled but are charged.

The case has dominated Malaysian media this week.

"Killer lawyers!" read Monday's headline in The Star daily. "Killed and Buried," "Their Throats were slit," proclaimed others. The case has also dominated news bulletins of many TV.

Even Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin has weighed in, saying he has been shocked by the case and condemns "the inhuman act."

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Gov't expects to hit '10 production, output targets /B2
■ More investments seen for semiconductor sector /B7

Editor Raul G. Marcelo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano
BUSINESS

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Delinquent taxpayers offered relief measures /B8

Demand for RP workers boosts remittances

By Michelle V. Remo

REMITTANCES ROSE anew in July on recovery of the global economy stirred up demand for more Filipino workers abroad, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

Money sent in hit $1.62B in July, up 8.2% from last year

The BSP said the money sent in by Filipinos abroad amounted to $1.62 billion in July, rising by 8.2 percent from only $1.49 billion in the same month last year.

This brought the cumulative amount of remittances in the first eight months of the year to $10.68 billion—up 7.1 percent from $9.97 billion in the same period a year ago.

"Underpinning mainly the resilience of remittances is the continued demand for Filipino manpower worldwide as global employment prospects remained favorable," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said in a statement.

Tetangco said that given the encouraging inflow in July, the central bank could expect remittances to continue to grow throughout the rest of the year.

Earlier, the BSP said it projected remittances to grow between 6 and 8 percent for the full year from last year's $17.35 billion.

Citing data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Tetangco said job orders involving Filipino workers reached 447,930 in January to August.

Jobs offered to Filipinos include those in the services, professional, technical, and production fields.

Citing reports from the Department of Labor and Employment, Tetangco said the new military facilities to be constructed in Guam would require up-

BSP/AMANDO TETANGCO JR. ON B2

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Sept. 15, 2010
44.260

STOCK MARKET
Sept. 15, 2010
5.16

Shares close higher

LEGAL STOCKS yesterday closed at a second-best score as investors remained upbeat on domestic economic and corporate earnings prospects.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange index gained 5.16 points, or 0.10 percent, to close at a new high of 5,012.48, reversing the slim loss incurred the previous day.

The top gainers and non-loss counters list

Unemployment rate marked decline in July

By Russel W. Domingo

THE NUMBER of jobless Filipinos decreased by some 400,000 in July, sending to 2.7 million from the 3.1 million reported in April, the National Statistics Office said yesterday.

Based on the NSO's Labor Force Survey, the unemployment rate fell to 6.9 percent in July from April's 8 percent.

NSO documents showed that the jobless rate in July was the lowest since the 6.8 percent posted in October 2008.

"The improvement in the employment situation is related to the high [economic] growth rate in the second quarter," Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Cayetano W. Paderanga Jr. said in an interview.

Paderanga, who is also director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, was referring to the 7.9-percent increase in the gross domestic product, or the total output of goods and services within the country.

"We are finally getting growth that produces more employment," he said. "We hope to augment this trend with pro-employment policies."

In July, the number of able Filipinos aged 15 years and older reached an estimated 68.3 million.

Of these, 39 million are part of the labor force, but only 36.3 million are holding full-time or part-time jobs.

According to the NSO, more than half, or 51.2 percent, of those with jobs are working in the services sector. That figure marked a decline from the 52 percent reported in April.

"The highest employed workforce in the services sector—representing 19.4 percent of the total employed—were in the wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods," NSO administrator Carmelita N. Ibrado said in a statement.

Most people are employed in agriculture with 12.8 percent of them employed—up from 12.5 percent in the previous survey.

UNEMPLOYMENT B2

Now you can invest in an affordable equity fund that follows the signs of the times.

Achieve your financial objectives whether it's a bull or a bear market. Invest in the PNB Enhanced PSEi Reference Fund today.

PNB Enhanced PSEi Reference Fund — the first and only peso denominated equity index reference fund that lets investors ride on the gains of representative stocks of the Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) during a bull run while providing a safety net during a market downturn by shifting its portfolio to fixed income instruments. **Minimum fund participation: as low as Php 25,000.**

You may also invest in the PNB Mabuhay Prestige Fund — a peso denominated balanced fund which provides high growth potential from the equities market and the stability and income-generating capability of fixed-income instruments.

For more information, visit your nearest PNB branch, call (02) 573-8888 or log on to www.pnb.com.ph

PNB

Gov't expects to hit '10 production, output targets

By Amy R. Remo

THE MINES and Geosciences Bureau expects to hit 10 billion-dollar mining investment and output by 2010 this year, as more companies get to push their mineral projects on the back of a more stable business environment.

According to Mines and Geosciences director Edwin G. Domingo, the country's mining sector is expected to produce P138.1-billion ($2.95 billion) worth of minerals for 2010, up slightly from the previous year's estimate of P136.1 billion ($2.32 billion).

In terms of mining investments, Domingo also seemed optimistic that the sector would hit its target of $1.4 billion for 2010 alone. He said that in the first six months of the year, mining investments had already reached almost $700 million, or about half of the 2010 target based on preliminary data.

Also, the government expects to reach the $13.5-billion mining investment target within the next two years.

This figure is slightly more conservative than the private sector's estimate of $14 billion, the mining official said.

Domingo explained that this optimism stemmed from the fact that several companies had requested progress in their respective projects and that a steady flow of investments could be expected.

For one, Mindoro Resources Ltd. said it had received the approval of International Finance Corp. regarding its funding worth 1.1 million Canadian dollars. Domingo said.

The amount would be used for the exploration of the Agata nickel project in the Surigao district in Mindanao.

Domingo added that TVI Resources Development Philippines Inc. fund also formed a joint venture with a unit of the DMCI Group of Companies to explore, develop and produce mineral resources in the Canatuan area in Zamboanga del Norte.

Under the agreement, the joint venture partners will invest a minimum of $2 million over two years to fund an exploration program in the gravity Canatuan Tenement ... an area (cont'd on)

RP mines seen to produce P138B worth of minerals

Unemployment . . . from page B1

Workers in industry experienced 14.5 percent of jobs in July, down from 15.3 percent in April.

Among the various occupation groups, the laborers and unskilled workers comprised the largest group, 1.61 million out of the total employed population," Reyes said.

Farmers, forestry workers and fishermen were the second largest group, accounting for 19.8 percent of the total employed.

Shares . . . From page B1

the day's gainers, respectively rising by 2.34 percent and 1.24 percent.

Value turnover stood at P6.42 billion from the previous day's P5 billion. There were 74 advancers, against 64 decliners, while 44 stocks were unchanged.

"There's mixed sentiments on the market," said Paul Joseph Garcia of ING Investment Management.

After hitting 4,000, the PSEi ran out of steam as high as 4,038 next week. Also, earnings support will be around 3,800, Garcia said.

He added that the entry of big fund management and investment firms in the local market had helped stoke bullish prospects over the next two years.

Dorcas C. Diandoc

Demand . . . From page B1

to 10,000 construction workers.

Another 131 military base will also be put up on the island of Tinian in the Northern Marianas, Shimizu, the BSP said, construction of an express railway line between Ha'ena and Jerusalem to Kauai would require Filipino workers.

Tetangco also said that the move of Filipino-owned banks to expand numerous overseas offshore units is crucial for Filipino migrants to send money to their relatives.

"The Filipino banks' aggressive marketing efforts to provide financial services for ... overseas Filipinos are expected to facilitate closer up remittance flows through the banking system," he said.

The sanguinous report is closely watched economic indicator, pointing largely to consumption in Filipino households.

MAGICARD
ID CARD PRINTERS
with FREE Magicolor Virtual Desktop Computer

Computerized Office Machines
MAGICARD Select

STAR PROPERTIES INC.
A Member of STAR Group of Companies

SEALED BIDDING OF PRIME PROPERTIES

STAR PROPERTIES INC. invites all interested parties to bid the following properties on "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis.

ASSET CODE	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	LAND AREA (in sqm) / Number of Units	MINIMUM BID PRICE
		CEBU		
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		LUZON		
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		VISAYAS		
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		MINDANAO		
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

BID SCHEDULE: Sale of Bid Documents / Bid Opening / Publication of Submission of Bid(s) — August 16, 2010; August 30 – September 10, 2010; September 13, 2010 4pm @ Cebu office

STAR reserves the right to reject any of bids, to waive any formality thereof, and to accept the offer/s most/s considered most advantageous to the company. The decision of STAR shall be final and binding.

For more information, you may call/email the following:

[illegible]

OFFICES: CEBU (G.O. and WAREHOUSE PLANT), 7th ST. cor. 17th ST., MANDAUE-MADRIGAL CITY, TEL#/S: (032) 345-[illegible]

Brouhaha over GOCC perks

(Editor's Note: Francis Lim, former president and chief executive officer of the Philippine Stock Exchange and now partner of the Angara Abello Concepcion Regala and Cruz Law Offices, has joined the business roster of columnists. His column will appear every other Thursday in the paper's Business section.)

OUR SENIOR statesmen think with more than executives and directors of our government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs). Our lawmakers consider GOCCs as instruments of social development (SODs) in international parlance, an investing analogue to the paychecks and lunch baskets.

A case in point is the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), a government-owned and controlled corporation publicly denounced by President Aquino in his Governor Brods of the Pinkos address.

Recall in newspaper reports that MWSS has about 22 different types of bonuses, equivalent to 27 months per-a-year given on the back of a P13.9-billion loss in 2008.

Some of these bonuses or benefits were under-scrutinized through oversight hearings as shown by first-nominated senators, such as gender-sensitive bonuses (as if gender is a matter of choice), one rehiring bonus (whatever that means!), efficiency incentive benefit to allegedly-underpaid (basic pay/salary) incentive bonus (what's the difference between the last?), pension allowance, PE blue allowance and privacy curtain) incentive (as if there is a need to incentivize people to go to the PE stores and the grocery) and, to top it all, housing in the country's controlled areas.

Reasonable per diems

The defense is that all these "allowances and benefits were approved by the board." What is not stated, of course, is that the blessing was given by the MWSS "tolerantly tired privileges equally privileged board of trustees." Not to say bad, and I wonder if you have heard of this.

The current brouhaha regarding our SODs stems from a series of legal issues. For example, do the list per-and-executive allowances under Section 36 of the Corporation Code, which provides that directors shall not receive any compensation, as such directors, except for reasonable per diems? Who thinks conflict of interest? Are the self-dealing provisions of the Corporation Code applicable to the directors, trustees and officers who received the bonuses and allowances? If so, was the process laid down in Section 32 of the Corporation Code observed?

In a situation like this, the Corporation Code requires that the presence of the directors or trustee is not necessary to constitute a quorum at the board meeting in which the bonuses and allowances were approved. It likewise requires that the vote of each director or trustee is not necessary for their approval, and above all, that they are fair and reasonable under the circumstances.

An equally important legal question is whether the recommending officers and approving directors or trustees are liable for gross negligence or bad faith under Section 30 of the Corporation Code. If so, who's not under these categories, jointly and severally with the employees, the amounts in their respective compositions?

From a criminal law standpoint, are the recommending officers and approving directors or trustees liable for violating Section 3(e, 3), or (1) of the Corporation Code? Are the said directors or trustees criminally liable under the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act for causing undue injury to the government?

On the part of the recipients, have they declared the entire pay and bonuses part of their taxable income? Paging Commissioner Kim Henares, please!

Public policy issues

In the case of government-owned or controlled corporations, should they have any duty to publicly disclose the bonuses and other benefits to the government? If they should of what optimal plans offered by the companies, have they violated the equal protection clause in corporate law? Should they be made to turn over to the government the shares of stock or the profits they made from the sale of such shares? Should there be any difference if they were first provided funds to purchase the stock? Is the suspension of the benefits decreed by Executive Order No. 7 valid and legal? Is Executive Order No. 7 a knee-jerk proud, doubtful issuance that will not be able to withstand legal scrutiny by our courts of law?

But core and above-the-legal questions are the public policy issues surrounding the brouhaha.

What kind of ownership policy or operational autonomy should the state develop for our SODs and how should such policy be implemented? Should there be an independent single consolidated entity or should it consider limiting operations for the SOEs? How do we deal with the constitutional provisions and time-honored principles of corporate law that are relevant to the matter? What kind of legal and regulatory framework should be put in place for our SOEs? Should our SOEs be exempt from the application of general laws and regulations? Should we distinguish between chartered and non-chartered SOEs? Should there be a unified policy for GOCCs with dual characteristics, particularly those involving market regulation? What level of disclosure and transparency should be required for SOEs? Should they be made to disclose their per publicly for all corporations? Should we have an investment-based supervisory government agency for all our SOEs? How should such a supervisory government system be implemented?

Is the personnel hiring given at the upper level to take stock of things by formulating the appropriate policy on the matter, but it may be easier said than done. It requires our public officials to carefully evaluate their actions, as proved during the Senate investigation.

'The devil is in the details'

The successful and lasting answer of our corporate governance framework is embodied. Our legislators should not lose sight of the need to attract and maintain highly competent people in government. A delivery and management bottleneck must be made. Benchmarking with international best practices and country experiences may have to be made.

There is, indeed, a paradise of details and issues that need to be navigated carefully before coming up with the appropriate policies. The devil is in the details, so to speak. I have no doubt about the objectivity and weak ethic of Senators Frank Drilon and Ed Angara, chair and vice chair, respectively, of the Senate committee on banks, financial services, the matter, whom I had the honor of working with in the past.

But whether or not the present Senate investigation will really set legislation on the matter or be just "one of those hearings," remains to be seen.

The author may be reached through his email address: limf@seclaw.com.ph

BIR misses Aug. target

But ₱79.1-B inflow 17% more than '09 take

By Rainier W. Dumlao

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue under the Aquino administration missed its monthly collection target in August, with inflow totaling ₱79.1 billion or 11.9 percent short of the goal.

However, preliminary data that the BIR released yesterday also show that compared to the ₱67.6 billion collected in August 2009, last month's revenue means an improvement of 17 percent.

Internal Revenue Commissioner Kim S. Henares said August growth was the best year-on-year improvement since April 2008 when collections expanded by 20 percent.

August collections put the yield in the eight months since January at ₱546.4 billion or 63.1 percent of the full-year target of ₱866.4 billion.

The amount represents an increase of 9.2 percent or ₱46.4 billion from the ₱500.0 billion collected in the same period of 2009.

However, the BIR's collection as of August is ₱23.8 billion or 3.1 percent short of the goal for the period.

Henares said that for the BIR to attain the revised target, its tax collections must grow by 15 percent for the entire year.

"While meeting the MBTs original target of ₱908 billion is achievable, we will still strive and continue to do our best to meet the revised target of ₱866 billion by yearend," she said.

The additional amount is meant to offset the efforts on the government's finances of the lack of progress in efforts to privatize big government assets.

In 2009 and again this year, the government failed to raise ₱50 billion from the privatization of the Food Terminal Inc. property in Taguig City, PNOC Exploration Corp.'s share in the Malampaya natural gas project and the Fujinet property in Japan.

"What adds to our belief that our performance is steadily improving is the fact that all the taxes collected for the month of August is purely a result of BIR's normal monthly operations," Henares said.

"Items [of the collections] had come yet from single large payments from assessments and terminal fees," she added.

Henares said that since declining by 1.6 percent year-on-year in June 2010, the BIR's tax collections have shown steady improvement, growing by 10.0 percent in July then 17.01 percent in August.

SMC raises stake in power, to put up 150-MW plant

By Doris C. Dumlao

SAN MIGUEL Corp. plans to put up a 150-megawatt power plant in Ilocos Norte as part of its plan to create a nationwide network of power plants fueled by liquefied natural gas (LNG).

In an interview, San Miguel president Ramon Ang said the installation of additional power generating capacity in Ilocos Norte would help lower electricity prices and likewise help spur the development of heavy industries in the province.

Citing San Miguel's studies, Ang said an 150-fired power plant with an initial capacity of 150 megawatts would be feasible in Ilocos.

He said the conglomerate, however, had not yet identified the specific location for this new set-generation project, which will benefit from the LNG import terminal to be put up in Batangas.

Being at the far end of the power grid, Ilocos Norte is vulnerable to power outages.

SouthWind Power Corp. operates a wind farm in the town of Bangui that can generate up to 55 MW, but it accounts for about a third of the power requirements of Ilocos Norte.

San Miguel, through its subsidiary San Miguel Energy Corp., earlier told the Philippine Stock Exchange it was considering to invest up to $8 billion to construct LNG facilities with a total capacity of 5,000 MW across the country, about half of which was to be put up between 2011 to 2015.

In Luzon alone, the plan was put up additional capacity of 1,200 MW.

The conglomerate wants the power business to eventually make up a quarter of the group's revenue.

In the first semester, its existing 2,000-MW power generation portfolio contributed P24.1 billion in revenue or about 12 percent of group-wide profit.

Ang said Ilocos Norte had a lot of potential to develop heavy industries.

On a personal capacity, Ang is taking over a limestone mining firm Ilocos Norte Mining Co. and putting up a cement factory in Ilocos Norte in partnership with Northern Cement Corp. of San Miguel chair Eduardo Cojuangco Jr.

He said the proposed cement plant would require an initial investment of at least ₱3.18 million to be able to produce one million tons of cement per year, initially catering to domestic construction requirements.

But he said the capacity could be eventually expanded to three million, potentially exporting some of its output to Taiwan.

Ang said he was on talks and hoping to close a deal with the landowners of the site for the plant.

He said construction of the proposed cement plant could start by December or January. He said the new cement plant may take two years to build.

Nexsun eyes stake in RP mining sector

By Dustin L. Luzar

A U.S.-based green energy management firm has expressed its interest in investing in the country's minerals sector, which has been identified as one of the priority industries of the Aquino administration.

In a statement, Nexsun Corp.—which is diversifying into mineral exploration and development—said it was encouraged by the determination of the new government to enhance the investment climate in the Philippines.

Nexsun recently invested in four local mining companies, namely Hinatuan Resources Mining, J&M Resources Mining, Bogo Biocrance Mining and TRT Resources and Mining.

It records appointed James Kim as president of all four mining companies.

"We intend to invest substantial capital in Philippine mining, as a showcase of our trust and confidence in the new administration of President Benigno Aquino III," said Kim.

He added that the company was looking at several potential mining operations in the country such as iron ore, uranium and gold, all of which it is now involved in, in the exploratory stage.

Kim said Nexsun has experience developing and operating green energy businesses including biofuels, waste-to-energy, recycling, onshore traditional oil and gas, utilities as well as natural resources development.

It has a portfolio of limited businesses in the United States and is also engaged in the fields of exploration, development and refining of mineral resources.

The Aquino administration hopes to attract ₱10 billion worth of new investments in the mining sector over the next three years.

Cumulative investments in the sector have reached only around ₱2.8 billion since 2006.

Mining has been rapidly expanding since the global economy recovered from the financial crisis in the third quarter of 2009.

The government unleashed four mineral production in the Philippines posted a year-on-year growth of 36.3 percent in the second quarter of 2010, spurred by higher demand amid a recovering global economy and the continued high export prices in world markets.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau expects the gross value of mineral production in the country to rise over 20 percent to ₱150.5 billion in 2010 from ₱106.1 billion in 2009.

Anti-Corruption Workshop for Small-and Medium-Size Enterprise

To promote integrity and accountability in business, the **Hills Program of the Asian Institute of Management** will be conducting workshops for owners and managers of SMEs. Each workshop will provide:

- *Insights on how to take an ethical approach to business as a management tool;*
- *Practical measures for dealing with corruption scenarios in day-to-day business operations;*
- *Guidance on implementing systems and controls for preventing unethical behavior by employees; and*
- *Tools for developing ethics training programs for employees.*

The workshop for SMEs in Metro Manila will be offered at AIM from 9 am to 1:30 pm on three dates: ***6 October, 20 October*** and ***17 November***.

Space is limited. If interested in applying to attend a workshop, please call Ms. Ria Piscano at 752 1257 or 892 4011, extension 2017 or send an e-mail to rvrcestarrcenter@aim.edu. Registration is free.

HILLS
PROGRAM ON GOVERNANCE

AIM Conference Center Manila Benavidez cor. Trasierra Streets, Legaspi Village, 1260 Makati City, Philippines

Gov't ...

From page B2

covered by TORO's Application for Exploration Permit No. 51.

Domingo further added that the $1.3-billion Tagaytay project entailing purchase of Southwest Metal Mining Ltd. is also on track.

The official also said that the mining sector's total exports would reach $2.96 billion this year, slightly higher than the 2009 estimate of $2.7 billion.

Both the 2009 and 2010 export figures comprise 5.4 percent of the country's total merchandise exports.

"However, with the way things are going, we may be able to reach that 6-percent mining export target this year," Domingo said.

ATTENTION: Business Advertisers

Publish a section of your

pets for sale

products for sale

house for sale

apartment for rent

CLASSIFIEDS

The country's newest due diligence, tax, advisory and audit services firm

REYES TACANDONG & CO.
FIRM PRINCIPLES. WISE SOLUTIONS.

is proud to announce the opening of its

DAVAO BRANCH

DAVAO BRANCH
LANDCO Building
J.P. Laurel Avenue
Davao City
T: +6382.282.0678; F: +6382.221.4336
davao@reyestacandong.com

HEAD OFFICE
PHINMA Plaza
39 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center
Makati City
T: +632.982.9100; F: +632.982.9111
info@reyestacandong.com
www.reyestacandong.com

a correspondent firm of MAZARS

FDIs to RP seen to accelerate in coming months

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE GROWTH in foreign direct investments (FDIs) to the Philippines is likely to accelerate in the months ahead, finance department officials said, adding that rising dollar inflows in the country would help push the peso to the 42-to-a-dollar level before the end of the year.

"On the capital account, we continue to expect foreign direct investment to rise gradually over the coming quarters, given the smooth political transition and a turnaround in global growth," it said in a paper on the Philippines.

FDIs into the country registered a net inflow of $288 million in June, a reversal of the net outflow of $143 million in the same period last year, according to a report released the other day by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The BSP further reported that in the first half, total net inflows of FDI reached $792 million. This was down year-on-year from $1.27 billion, but Barclays said more favorable FDI figures are likely to be posted in the quarters ahead.

The projection by Barclays is consistent with that of the central bank, which earlier expressed optimism that FDIs will grow faster amid the government's efforts to intensify its campaign for more private sector investments in public infrastructure projects.

Barclays said a faster rise in FDIs that would come with a sustained rise in foreign portfolio investments will force the peso to appreciate to levels stronger than initially anticipated. It was suggesting the peso is lower at the 44.51 level this year, two until the local currency is now likely to break into the 42.45 mark soon.

"The direction of the move [appreciation] has been in line with our expectation, but the sharp move has come the Philippine peso pairs rumped out one year target of 44," Barclays said. The investment bank expects the peso to hit 43.5 against the US dollar within three months, and to strengthen further to 40.81 within one year.

Barclays said its bearish stance on the peso takes into account its perception that the BSP is allowing the peso to appreciate.

"The central bank also appears to be becoming more comfortable with the pace of appreciation. BSP Governor Tetangco said in a recent speech that the 'peso has overcorrected' on appreciation yet those underlying external pulse compare to-date," Barclays said.

The BSP claims that because of large inflows in the Philippines, competitiveness of exports from the country has not diminished even with the appreciation of the peso.

Meanwhile, Barclays said the projected rise in FDI, growth in foreign portfolio investments, and rising remittances from Filipino migrants would substantially trim the country's external funding gap.

Barclays projected that the country's funding gap as a percentage of its total foreign currency reserves would be cut from 15 percent in 2008 to only 4 percent this year.

The funding gap represents the country's foreign currency-denominated debts scheduled to be paid in a given period less its foreign currency inflows, such as in the form of remittances, export earnings, foreign direct investment, and foreign portfolio investments.

The country's total reserves of foreign currencies is nearing $80 billion, according to the BSP.

Barclays says peso may appreciate to P42:$1 by year's end

The name is bonds

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Bonoil III

FIRST THE JOKE: Thanks to the profligacy of the previous administration, the Aquino (Part II) administration has no other way to support the government but to borrow tons of money.

But the good news is, well, borrowing money overseas has never been easier and cheaper.

In fact, foreign banks are even battling each other just to be able to lend money to the Philippine government, despite the current administration's admitted hostility to that ever-paler remedy of a return to the park.

Last Saturday, seemingly beaming with confidence, the Department of Finance (DOF) joined PDS Group—worth a stupendous of $2 billion—to help secure for the yawning budget deficit left behind by the care administration of Gloriarroyo.

The IOUs became a hit, thanks came heralded with more than $13 billion worth of bids for the $1 billion issuance. There was not enough for everybody. The government therefore could entertain only the banks that offered the lowest cost.

The float should easily set the basis for the price of future borrowings of the Philippine government. It should be cheap. After all, the government is projecting its bond issuance abroad to hit $2.5 billion next year just to keep itself afloat.

* * *

THERE was nothing unusual, of course, about the Philippine government issuing IOUs. As a matter of fact, the government last year issued more than a trillion pesos worth of bonds. Until now, if you want to get rich, one way is to master the bond market here. The name of the financial game now is bonds.

Anyway, last week's bond issuance, ably handled by the national treasury, was diversified at foreign banks. The big difference was that the bonds were denominated in dollars.

Let me repeat that. Foreign investors bought peso-denominated bonds. They were not dollar or yen or euro bonds.

It never happened before. In the past, when the government issued IOUs, they were always denominated mainly in the currencies of the world's richest countries.

In a way, the banks then were saying that investors did not have any confidence in the Philippine peso. It ultimately meant they did not like the way the Philippine economy was going, how the government was running it.

And so for the first time ever for this country, and even for the entire Asian region, investors abroad accepted government IOUs denominated in the local currency—worth an equivalent of $1 billion, at that!

The banks must have thought hard about their bids, considering all the risks involved in getting peso bonds at low yield. The answer was one ... well, pesimpes.

* * *

I THOUGHT that the peso bond float said a lot about the renewed confidence of foreign investors in the future of the Philippines, with or without the Luneta tragedy.

The largest ever came from Europe, Asia and the United States. Investors in these financial centers always know what they are doing. In the fast business of finance, they are the hardest bunch to please.

What the peso-denominated float of the Aquino (Part II) administration tells the business community is this: The peso would not be allowed to go one of rehack.

And why is that? Well, the buyers of the peso bonds would lose a fortune if the peso would depreciate heavily against, say, the US dollars in the next 10 years, or until the maturity date of the peso bonds.

Because when they redeem the bonds 10 years from now, a depreciated peso would mean that they could get far less dollars out of their peso bonds. And yet they bought the bonds precisely with expectations of a stable peso, if not a strong peso.

Surely everybody in the country, including the country's monetary and fiscal authorities, desires a stable currency. This will give foreign investors confidence in the local currency.

Thus the government can continue to issue more peso bonds in the future. Cheap peso bonds! Which is really not a bad thing.

As I said, the government need issue more than $1.5 billion worth of bonds next year.

* * *

THE GOVERNMENT must borrow money to cover the expected budget deficit, and it will have to look overseas for that kind of money.

The local capital market is too small for the needs of the government. As a developing country by definition, the country does not have enough capital.

Previously, the government had to take significant foreign exchange risk because it had to borrow abroad in foreign currencies. Things are a lot different now. The peso is moving the opposite way. Some say it is because the dollar was weakened by the financial meltdown in the United States.

Still, we have Ocean Dollards of dollars roaming the Philippines. The total amount should be more than what is reported by the banking system.

The foreign buyers of the peso bonds must have figured that our OFWs are not likely to stop working overseas in the next 10 years, or until the bonds mature.

Now, the peso bonds should be good news to the OFWs, too. Any borrowing in dollars, either by the government or by the private sector, the domestic capital market would have too much dollars, and more dollars could only mean that the peso would appreciate.

OFWs and exporters would not really jump for joy when the peso gained against foreign currencies.

Add to the government's bond issuance—it projects—should also solve the problem of a unreal bounced peso.

The thing is, the government is not the only local entity borrowing overseas. Private companies borrow dollars as well. In fact, they are bigger dollar borrowers.

Perhaps with the peso bond issuance, the BSP is sending them a message. Let us hope that they get it.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
COLE NCR Building, 897 Reliance St.,
Mandaluyong City

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
ACCENTURE, INC. NSE Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City	Jan Paul Tummel German	Senior Executive
INNOVATIONS & CONCEPTS, INC. 12F Ayala Life-FGU Center Mingal, Makati City	Laurent Wilfrid Hubert Jacque Guffroy-Hubert French	Sales Manager of France Product Studio
INTEGRATED CENTER FOR OUTDOOR DEVELOPMENT (ICOD) FOUNDATION, INC. 1 Kulunggalig St., Northeast Greenhills, San Juan City	Inan Ayan Turkish	Supervisor on Science Education
PHILIPPINE CULTURAL INFORMATION & TOURISM INC. 1 NW Corporation Tower cor. St. Francis St., Mandaluyong City	Dongchu Yeung Korean	Operation Consultant
BAY MONTESSORI LANE II (CHILD'S), INC. Room 206-208, 2/F Commerce Goal Tower, Industry and Finance Bldg., Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Alan James Smith American	Vice President
NOVENIX CORPORATION 25/F BCBC Place, Yuchengco Center, 6811 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Ong Ping Chau Malaysian	Customer Service Operations Manager
INTERIM BPO SOLUTIONS, INC. 11/F Cyberpod Bldg., EDSA cor. Quezon Ave., Quezon City	Derek Tunn Canadian	Senior Customer Service Specialist
SHANGHAI INTERNATIONAL TRADE, INC. 1/F Builders Center Bldg., 170 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Yongjun Yang Chinese	Technical Staff
TES-AMM RESOURCES, INC. 7/F BTAS Center, 28 F. Ortigas Jr. Ave., Bagumbayan, Quezon City	Haitham Al Hassanieh Lebanese	International Marketing and Business Development Consultant
JARDINE DAVIMOTOR ELEVATOR CORPORATION 2300 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City	Yang Guo Michelle Hong Chinese	Human Resources Manager
THE GREAT EASTERN SHIPPING AGENCIES, INC. 4/F Cityland Pasong Tamo Tower, 2210 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City	Dharminder Singh Hundal Indian	Assistant Operation Manager
CAMBALUM MINING CORPORATION 10/F SP Portfolio Cloud Bldg., Perea St. cor. Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Yongbin Sai Chinese	Export Coordinator
NESTE MARINE PHILIPPINES, INC. 4/F Manila Peninsula Hotel Building, Ayala Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Sandeep Kumar Vasha Rallot Indian	Workforce Manager
STANDARD CHARTERED BANK 6/F 8756 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Wei Sze Thien Malaysian	Marketing & Wealth Manager
HUBUNG TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES, INC. Unit 201-207 Orange Road, FTI Complex, Taguig City	Dong Lee (a/k/a Hyeon Ki) Korean	Marketing Manager
TAHOE BANGUNAN MINERAL PROCESSING CONSULTANCY SERVICES 25/F-B Hobbits Court, #35 Perfecto St., Cebu City	Richard William Hanlen Australian	Technical Consultant
M-WORKS REALTY CORPORATION 82/F Double Dragon Plaza, Macapagal Ave., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig	Huang Sen Chinese	Assistant Manager
M-WORKS REALTY CORPORATION 82/F Double Dragon Plaza, Macapagal Ave., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig	Yajun Chen Chinese	Assistant Supervisor
ACCENTURE, INC. NSE Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City	Hyun Kwon Korean	Software Engineer
ACCENTURE, INC. NSE Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City	Alexandru Florian Mochnak German	Senior Manager

If you have any information/objection on the above mentioned applications please communicate with this Regional Director.

ARMANDO G. AGRAVIADOR
Regional Director

(PSN-September 16, 2010)

Republic of the Philippines
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
City Hall, Antipolo City, Rizal

INVITATION TO BID

This Committee is inviting suppliers, contractors and consultants to bid for the following projects:

Name of Project	Source of Funds	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Date of Submission and Opening of Bids
1. Construction of Road Concreting at Sitio Pinagsikapan, Barangay Cupang	Php 500,000.00	Sept. 28, 2010 - 10:00 AM Sept. 28, 2010 - 10:00 AM	Php 500,000.00
2. Construction of Drainage System at Sitio Tabon Tabon, Barangay Cupang (Phase I)	Php 500,000.00	Sept. 28, 2010 - 10:00 AM Sept. 28, 2010 - 10:00 AM	Php 500,000.00

Bidding is open to all qualified contractors from the Offices of the City Mayor, Procurement Committee and Bids and Awards Committee. Bidding documents may be obtained from the Office of the Bids and Awards Committee upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 5,000.00.

The Bids and Awards Committee reserves the right to reject any bid, to waive any defect therein, and to accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

Date of Publication: September 16, 2010

(Sgd.) ATTY. ANTONIO M. ARRIOLA
BAC Chairman

(PSN-Sept. 16, 2010)

For jobseekers, log on to: www.jobmarketonline.com

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Hur Hyung, with photo above, a Korean citizen with last known address at 21 D LPL Building, 17 Eisenhower St., Greenhills San Juan, Metro Manila, Philippines, is no longer connected with **Peniel Resources Mining, Bogo Resources Mining, J & H Resources Mining and T & T Resources and Mining** since July 12, 2010.

All transactions entered into with this person supposedly in behalf of the four companies after this date shall no longer be honored.

(PN-Sept. 9, 2010)

Republic of the Philippines
City of Tabaco
CITY MAYOR'S OFFICE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
For WORKS CONSTRUCTION

The City Government of Tabaco has awarded a project, Proposed Tabaco City Hotel in New Lidong Subdivision, Sto. Niño, Brgy. 56, Tabaco City, covered by the planning, design, construction and supervision of the hotel/condominium to be located in Tabaco City.

The City government has issued Tabaco City Business Permit for the conception and implementation of the project and is committed to undertake the construction of the project in accordance with the schedules set out in the Implementation Plan, which will be monitored by the Project Management Office (PMO) created for the purpose of accomplishment and implementation of the project. In accordance with the schedule set out in the Implementation Plan, which will be monitored by the Project Management Office (PMO) created for the purpose of accomplishment and implementation of the project, in accordance with the schedules

More investments seen for semiconductor sector

By Abigail L. Ho

Capital spending to reach $36.9B in 2010, Gartner says

THE GLOBAL semiconductor industry expects investments to continue to pour in the remaining months of the year, with capital equipment spending seen ending $36.9 billion, more than double last year's $16.6 billion.

According to international research firm Gartner Inc., growth from this year to next would be a modest 4.9 percent, but only because 2010's expected spending growth would drive capital equipment spending to an all-time high.

Also, 2009 was considered a slump year by the industry, with most players opting to make do with their existing equipment, as semiconductor demand significantly slowed amid the global recession.

Gartner said overall semiconductor capital equipment spending would likewise double this year to $10.7 billion, from the $25.9 billion recorded last year.

Since 2000 proved itself to be the year of recovery, not only for the industry but the global economy, Gartner managing vice president Klaus Rinnen said 2011 should be a softer year, for which companies should prepare.

From 2010 to 2011, Gartner said total capital spending—including equipment—should grow by a slower 16.1 percent to $55.6 billion.

"Capital expenditure (this year) is above 80 percent due to strong spending by the foundry and logic segments, along with a technology upgrade for the memory manufacturers. In 2011, capex growth is expected to slow to 16 percent, because a slowing economy will negatively impact electronic end vendors' capacity rather than technology," he said in a statement posted on the Gartner website.

For this reason, he said equipment manufacturers should plan for a "softer 2011," with equipment purchases to focus more on capacity rather than technology.

The next equipment down cycle would start in late 2012, he said, due mainly to overinvestment by memory companies, which would then result in excess equipment capacity.

Until then, he said the semiconductor equipment industry was poised for more growth.

"2010 will likely be the strongest year ever for the semiconductor equipment industry, which will be a also rebound from the worst year ever. Growth will continue through 2012 as companies move from technology buys to capacity purchases," he said.

Clean energy seen with new technology

By Dindo G. Lucas

THE AQUINO administration is being urged to invest in new technology that would allow for so-called "carbon dioxide capture and storage" (CCS) as a weapon against climate change and a tool to spur investments in the energy sector.

According to think tank Forensic Law and Policy Strategies Inc. (Forensic Solutions), the private sector can utilize its own CCS technology to put up and develop coal-fired power plants in the country, where there is "vast potential" for domestic production.

Having CCS technology could introduce the need for not only imports to be able to use coal, which is one of the cheapest energy sources available.

CCS involves three main steps: (1) capturing and separating carbon dioxide from large facilities and industries that emit carbon-based fossil fuels and biomass such as power plants and industrial facilities; (2) compressing and transporting captured carbon dioxide in liquid or vapor form; and (3) storing carbon dioxide in appropriate reservoirs such as geological formations.

Before this can be done, however, the government must first come up with a legal and regulatory framework on carbon dioxide emissions can be set aside and appropriate measures or safeguards can be put in place to allay any concerns over the commercial competitiveness, environmental safety and public acceptance of these facilities, said Forensic Solutions in its policy paper.

The think tank, headed by former Justice Secretary Silvestre Agra, said crafting a regulatory framework on carbon dioxide emissions to encourage power investments in the energy sector was in sync with President Aquino's goal to generate private-public partnerships for government's big-ticket projects.

"CCS technology may prove most viable in countries dependent or primarily using coal for power generation and industries, granting that the required regulatory framework is in place along with adequate assessment and investment tools available to prospective CCS participants," said Agra in the policy paper, which he co-wrote with Mari Jennifer Bravo.

"The power and industry profile of the Philippines may make it a feasible location for application of CCS technology, being primarily a coal-consuming country with fast potential for local coal production," they said.

"However, with the bulk of its coal consumption being supplied by imported coal, the Philippines must strengthen its policy direction toward self-sustainability and promote development of reserved energy resources through assessment and continuing development of applicable legal and regulatory framework," Forensic solutions added.

Republic of the Philippines
MUNICIPALITY OF PAGBILAO
Province of Quezon

INVITATION TO BID FOR
Supply & Delivery of Materials for the Construction of the Proposed Quezon Provincial General Hospital Building, Phase II, Pagbilao, Quezon, Philippines

THE MUNICIPALITY OF PAGBILAO, through the CY 2010 Supplemental Annual Budget, intends to apply the sum of P 17,000,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Supply & Delivery of Materials for the Construction of the Proposed Quezon Provincial General Hospital Building, Phase II, Pagbilao, Quezon, Philippines. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

THE MUNICIPALITY OF PAGBILAO now invites bids for the Supply & Delivery of Materials for the Construction of the Proposed Quezon Provincial General Hospital Building, Phase II, Pagbilao, Quezon, Philippines. Delivery of the Materials is required within [illegible] calendar days. Bidders should have completed a contract similar to the Project, equivalent to at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC. The Municipality of Pagbilao reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Municipality of Pagbilao and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during [illegible] to [illegible].

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the Office of the Municipal Treasurer upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) and submitted to the Municipal Bids and Awards Committee (MBAC) on or before [illegible].

It may also be inspected by prospective bidders at the address given below during the same period.

The Municipality of Pagbilao, through the MBAC, reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to accept the bid in the interest of the Municipality of Pagbilao without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

[illegible]
Municipal Treasurer
Municipality of Pagbilao
Pagbilao, Quezon

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR
Province of Quezon

INVITATION TO BID

The Municipal Government of Mauban, Quezon through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) intends to apply the sum of [illegible] being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for [illegible].

Activities	Schedule
1. Publication of Invitation to Bid	September 16 to October 13, 2010 (4 weeks)
2. Pre-bid Conference	September 23, 2010
3. Issuance and Purchasing of Bids	October 13, 2010 (9:00 AM)
4. Bid Evaluation	October 13, 2010
5. Post-qualification	October 14, 2010
6. Notice of Award	October 15, 2010
7. Notice to Proceed	October 16, 2010

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders at the Office of the Municipal Treasurer upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) and submitted to the Municipal Bids and Awards Committee (MBAC) on or before [illegible].

It may also be inspected by prospective bidders at the address given below during the same period.

The Municipal Government of Mauban, Quezon, reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the Bidding Process, and to accept the bid in the best interest of the Municipality of Mauban without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

[illegible]
Chairman

[illegible]
Member

[illegible]
Member

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Negros Occidental
MUNICIPALITY OF CADIZ

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF HILAMAN BRIDGE

1. The Municipality of Cadiz, through the Congressional Fund CY 2010, intends to apply the sum of P7,000,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Construction of Hilaman Bridge. Bid received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

2. The Municipality of Cadiz now invites bids for the Construction of Hilaman Bridge. Completion of the Project is required within one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of commencement stated in the Notice to Proceed. Bidders should have completed a contract similar to the Project, equivalent to at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC. The Municipality of Cadiz reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Municipality of Cadiz and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address given below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of P10,000.00.

6. The Municipality of Cadiz will host a Pre-Bid Conference on September 28, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at the Cadiz SB Office, which is open only to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before October 5, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

8. Bid opening shall be on October 5, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at the address below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend the activity.

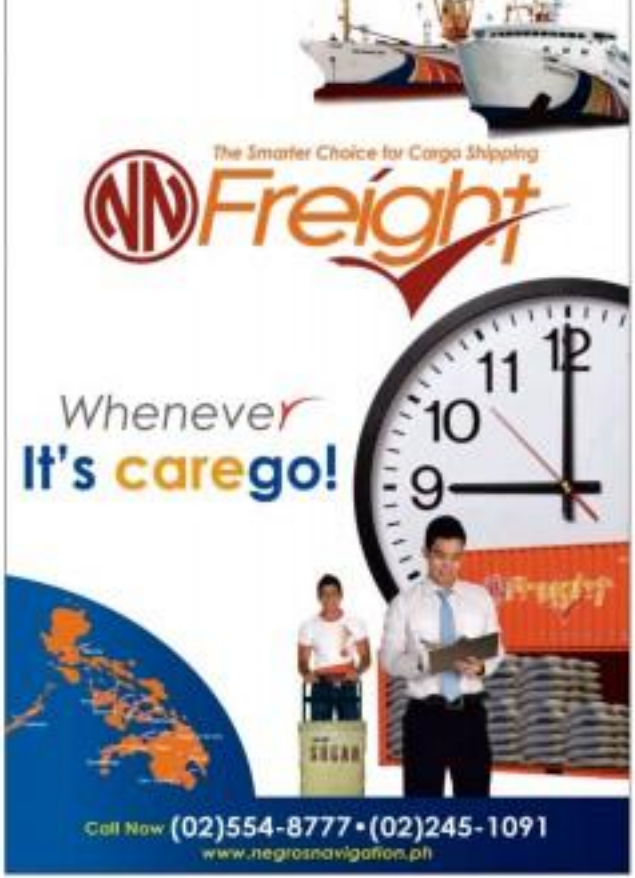
9. The Municipality of Cadiz reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

10. For further information, please refer to:

Engr. Milton D. Ordoñez
Municipality of Cadiz Head Office
Cadiz City
Telefax/Email: [illegible]

(Sgd.) ENGR. MILTON D. ORDOÑEZ
Municipal Engineer

PDO September 16, 2010



BUSINESS

Delinquent taxpayers offered relief measures

By Roxanne TC Carvajal

BIR voluntary abatement program eases penalties

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue has issued guidelines that relieve delinquent taxpayers of surcharges in compromise penalties on either failing to file tax returns or having filed returns that do not reflect appropriate amounts.

The revenue that taxpayers who avail of the so-called abatement program are spared from paying an additional 25 percent of the tax they will owe the government or six months that the BIR offers to those who settle their obligations by means of compromise.

However, under Revenue Regulations No. 9-2010 dated Sept. 13, taxpayers who choose to instead defer tax returns still have to shell out the amount they avoided paying, plus 20 percent interest.

Internal Revenue Commissioner Kim Henares said many such taxpayers have recently expressed willingness to voluntarily file and pay taxes or "come clean" the returns that have been delinquent for years.

Henares said these taxpayers were also willing to pay tax deficiencies, although they did request for an abatement of the penalties.

Still, she said a taxpayer's availing of the abatement program does not stop the BIR from investigating the correctness of the amended returns and taking legal action when criminal violations are discovered.

Also, RR 9-2010 states that while the abatement covers all types of taxes, the program is available only to those taxpayers who are not yet subject of any legal complaint filed in court or with the Department of Justice or to BIR investigators—meaning that the taxpayer should not have received any notice from the BIR yet.

These can types include estate, donor's, capital gains, final withholding, expanded withholding and documentary stamp taxes related to the movement of assets.

Further, RR 9-2010 explained that the abatement is part of BIR efforts to delist tax evasion practices and to encourage voluntary compliance with tax laws.

Under the Aquino administration, the BIR has re-launched its Run After Tax Evaders campaign, under which the agency files with the DOJ complaint against delinquent taxpayers.

In an earlier interview, Henares said that the drive was for catching taxpayers to take action and seldom their tax delinquencies before the BIR catches them.

She said that without the abatement program, those who come forward and pay up are liable to a surcharge of 25 percent while those who are caught by the BIR with unpaid taxes are slapped with a penalty of 50 percent.

Henares added that those who would avail of abatement will also need to settle their tax deficiencies through a lump sum payment.

Measures in case of PAL strike insufficient, warns regulator

By Paolo G. Montecillo

CONTINGENCY MEASURES being prepared by the government will not be enough to cover gaps that will be left open by Philippine Airlines (PAL) in case a workers' strike against the flag carrier's operations.

The Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) said most airlines have their own flights to every destination, and few have spare aircraft to accommodate a short-term basis.

"It's a matter of policy, most airlines have all of their assets deployed," CAB Executive Director Carmelo Arcilla said in a recent interview.

"There will be unavoidable gaps," he said.

President Benigno Aquino III has said if PAL's current labor dispute escalates into a work stoppage by employees, the government plans to tap foreign and local airlines to take PAL's flights.

Last year, PAL carried close to nine million passengers, making it the country's largest carrier.

This was the same strategy the government used over a decade ago when a similar workers' strike halted PAL operations, leaving the airline's fleet grounded.

At that time, some of PAL's routes were given to Hong Kong-based Cathay Pacific.

The interest of the riding public, the government said, would go before the survival of the embattled airline.

"We've been talking to other airlines already but it's difficult to imagine that there will be a smooth transition," Arcilla said.

Arcilla declined to comment on the status of the airlines the government has already approached. But he noted that there are the cases that currently serve routes exactly the same or similar to those being flown by PAL.

The government also wants to fast track the implementation of an "open skies" policy which opens up the country's aviation sector for the entry of foreign carriers.

PAL has not opposed the implementation of the "open skies" regime. However, officials have urged the government to ensure that any such policy is implemented fairly.

PAL president Jaime Bautista has said the airline might find it difficult to compete with foreign carriers because most of these enjoy the financial backing of their respective governments.

Tampakan breakthrough seen

By Ana R. Nuez

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources expects a breakthrough in the controversial bid by SP the operator of mining here to finally commence operations.

Tampakan Copper-Gold project.

"South Cotabato Gov. Arthur Pingoy Jr. said they are optimistic that the can soon be resolved within the level," said Environment Secretary Ramon J.P. Paje Jr. in a briefing held during the 2010 Philippine Mining Conference yesterday.

Paje disclosed that the DENR has opted to keep its distance from the issue, as he lack of political will on its to support proponent Xstrata Plc through its local subsidiary Sagittarius Mines Inc.

Last July, Digo had said he the government would try to facilitate a "compromise" on the open pit mining ban in South Cotabato that has allowed the Tampakan project, as it found the need to protect the mining investment.

But given SMI's request, Paje remarked that the DENR will only intervene should conflict arise.

Although Paje did not directly cite the DENR's official stand in the proceedings, the environment chief stressed that the DENR has always maintained that local and provincial governments cannot pass a law or ordinance that would go against environment.

Reelected Philip Somoditan, president of Chamber of Mines of the Philippines, also expressed optimism that the issue will be resolved, as certain parties are working out in chiefly raised proceedings that stemmed from a misinterpretation of the several policies.

Somoditan further commented that the provincial board of South Cotabato should "fully understand" the consequences of banning open pit mining in the would also hamper operations in the province.

Last June, the provincial board of South Cotabato passed an environmental code that banned open pit mining. The ordinance was signed by former Gov. Daisy Avance-Fuentes before moving on to represent the second district of her province in Congress.

For his part, DENR Sec. Ramon Paje apparently said in an interview that the company was looking forward to these discussions, adding that they are now highly "encouraged by the move to review the code" and the possibility of reconsidering the open pit mining ban.

Pingoy earlier said that members of the Minerals Development Council have already expressed their willingness to review the ban or at least qualify which projects should be affected.

Art Masterpieces at Fort Victoria

Fort Victoria, the residential towers set to grace the skyline of Fort Bonifacio, will be the backdrop for an extraordinary art exhibition. Dubbed "Art Masterpieces at Fort Victoria", the event will feature the works of the country's renowned artists and sculptors like Cesar Legaspi, Malang, H.R. Ocampo, Arturo Luz, Mario Parial, Sanso, Romulo Olazo, Ang Kiukok, Federico Aguilar, Norma Belleza, Angelito Antonio, Cui, Marcel Antonio, Jeff Dixon, Baldemor, Michael Cacnio, Ramon Orlina, and Eduardo Castrillo. The exhibit reflects the love for the arts and its significance to the soul of a nation.

"Art Masterpieces at Fort Victoria" will open its doors on Friday, September 17, 2010, 4PM onwards at the Fort Victoria model unit showroom, 5th Avenue, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. For more information, contact New San Jose Builders, Inc. at 484-9091/484-9096 or visit www.fort-victoria.com

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Tony Boy Escalante** shares interesting recipes /C3

LIFESTYLE *Food*

■ **More recipes:** Tuna Paella Omelet /C2

STEP BY STEP

Bacon-wrapped 'camaron rebosado'

By Margie Biagco-Reyes

COMPLETE a quick and easy meal with this Bacon-wrapped Camaron Rebosado. Much of the preparation for this dish can be done in advance, so you can serve it on shortnotice.

Camaron Rebosado is a yummy and effortless way to cook prawns. A difference exists in the bacon wrapped around the sad's flesh class covered with egg and flour mixture, making it crispy in every bite. It's practically similar to Japanese tempura.

"And don't overcook the bacon," says chef Arvin Rabilong, kitchen manager of The Red Crab Allcamps House (104 JSR Bldg. cor. Senen Delgado, Tomas Morato, QC; tels. 4124322 and 3748486).

"It's good to keep the dry lumps because these become crispy during frying."

Don't overcook the prawns too or you turn them dry and rubbery. But, you can prepare in advance the uncooked bacon-wrapped prawns and keep them in an air-tight plastic bag and store them in the freezer for several days or even months. Simply thaw them before cooking.

It's best to remove the heads and shells of the prawns, leaving the tails on to make dipping in the batter easier.

Ingredients:
6 pc prawns, deveined
6 strips bacon
2 whole eggs
1 c flour
3–4 tbsp water
Salt and pepper to taste
Cooking oil for deep frying

For suggestions, e-mail the author at tbiggs@inquirer.com.ph

REMOVE the heads and shells of the prawns, keeping the tails intact.

REMOVE the black intestine by cutting a part of the back.

BACON-WRAPPED Camaron Rebosado

WRAP prawn on a strip of bacon. Freeze for an hour just to hold them together. Set aside.

MEANWHILE, prepare batter. In a mixing bowl, combine eggs and flour.

GRADUALLY add water. Mix well until mixture reaches a thick consistency. Season with salt and pepper.

6

HEAT oil in a frying pan. Dip a piece of prawn in the batter (leave the tail uncovered).

7

DEEP fry until golden brown. Remove from the pan and drain with paper towel. Serve with sweet and sour sauce or banana catsup.

FROM left, front: Marc Aubry, Jessie Sincioco, Christian Perodon, Patrick Fournier, Roland Lutz, Billy King, and (from left, back) Roland Sagar and Cyrille Gouvier.

8 celebrity chefs team up for fundraising dinner

WHAT SHOULD BE the ultimate gastronomic experience will be held at InterContinental Manila's Prince Albert Ballroom on Oct. 7, when eight former and current InterContinental Manila celebrity chefs team up for just one night to prepare an eight-course dinner like no other for 90 paying guests.

Set yourself from the event will be showcased in the Children's Hour, a non-profit fundraising and grant giving organization supportive of educational, food and shelter projects for children, and WWF-Philippines, a national organization devoted to the conservation of endangered species and preservation of the environment.

In the culinary dream team are Billy King (Irish/food and beverage director; executive chef, 1986-88); Cyrille Gouvier (French/Swiss Alsace chef, executive chef, 2008-09), Roland Sagar (German/executive chef, 1993-98), Marc Aubry (French/Swiss Alsace chef, executive sous chef, 1989-91), Roland Lutz (Swiss/pastry chef, 1983-89), Jessie Sincioco (Filipino/assistant pastry chef, 1993-96, Patrick Fournier (French/executive chef, 2006-present), and Christian Perodon (French/resident manager, 1995-96, general manager, 2005-08 and February 2010-present).

The idea for this extraordinary collaboration came about after the grand reunion of InterContinental Manila personnel early this year. All featured chefs are wearing their professional hats in favor of the two chosen beneficiaries.

With their culinary reputation at stake, the teams is bent on serving a dinner like no other in town: spanning mouths discovering and kitchen-tasting the dishes that will make up the evening's menu. Only the highest quality ingredients will be used and sourced from different parts of the world. The same uncertain and exotic will mark the choice of wines.

Only 90 paying guests will be accommodated for the long-awaited black-tie affair. The P15,000-per price per person is inclusive of the eight-course dinner and accompanying wines at the Prince Albert plus pre-dinner cocktail drinks and hors d'oeuvres at the nearby Legaspi Room. Bound to become a collector's item is the evening's limited edition menu card which features artwork creations, specially for the occasion by former Filipina artist Manuel Baldemor. Only 120 menu cards will be printed and signed by baldemor. The original oil on canvas painting will be auctioned off shortly on the night itself and proceeds donated to Children's Hour and WWF-Philippines.

Eight Filipino fashion designers are being tapped to create the chefs' jackets. Hired attirers of the Philippines, Rarley Cona, will create the table centerpieces.

All those elements should create an extraordinary and rare event in gastronomy art and fashion.

Reservations will be on a first come/first served basis and prepaid. Interested parties may call 793-7000 extension numbers 2223, 2613 or 2273 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and extension numbers 2801, and 2806 from 8 p.m. onwards.

Tuna Paella Omelet, Chorizo Stuffed Balls

THESE RECIPES are from Sue Whatley Pena.

Tuna Paella Omelet

Ingredients:
1 can Tuna Hasta
3 eggs, beaten
1 white onion, diced
3 cloves of garlic, minced
1 green bell pepper, diced
½ c shredded cheese
2 strips of bacon, diced
3 pcs mushrooms, thinly sliced
½ tbsp butter
Parsley for garnish
Salt and pepper to taste

1. Heat the eggs and season with salt and pepper then set aside.
2. Sauté onions, garlic, mushrooms, bell peppers, bacon and Tuna Paella in butter.
3. Cook the eggs and place Tuna Hasta mixture in half of the omelet.
4. Put some grated cheese then close the omelet.
5. Plate and garnish.

Chorizo-Stuffed Tuna Paella Balls

Ingredients:
1 can Tuna Hasta
1 white onion, diced
2 cloves garlic, minced
2-3 pcs Chorizo de Bilbao, taken out of casing and formed into small balls
1 c flour
1 egg, beaten
1 c Japanese breadcrumbs
Shaved fresh parmesan cheese
Olive frying
Salt and pepper to taste
Hot sauce

1. Sauté onions, garlic and Tuna Hasta, season with salt and pepper, and let it cool down.
2. Once paella has cooled down, form into balls the size of ping-pong balls and stuff with chorizo.
3. If paella isn't sticky enough use binders such as flour.

4. Dip balls into seasoned flour, egg then breadcrumbs then fry.
5. Garnish with shaved parmesan.
6. Serve with hot sauce on the side.

Chili Corned Tuna Stuffed Mussels

Ingredients:
1 can Chili Corned Tuna
12 pc mussels, blanched and top shell taken off
1 c grated cheese
½ c cream breadcrumbs
1 small green bell pepper, diced
1 pc pimiento (from can), diced

TUNA Paella Omelet

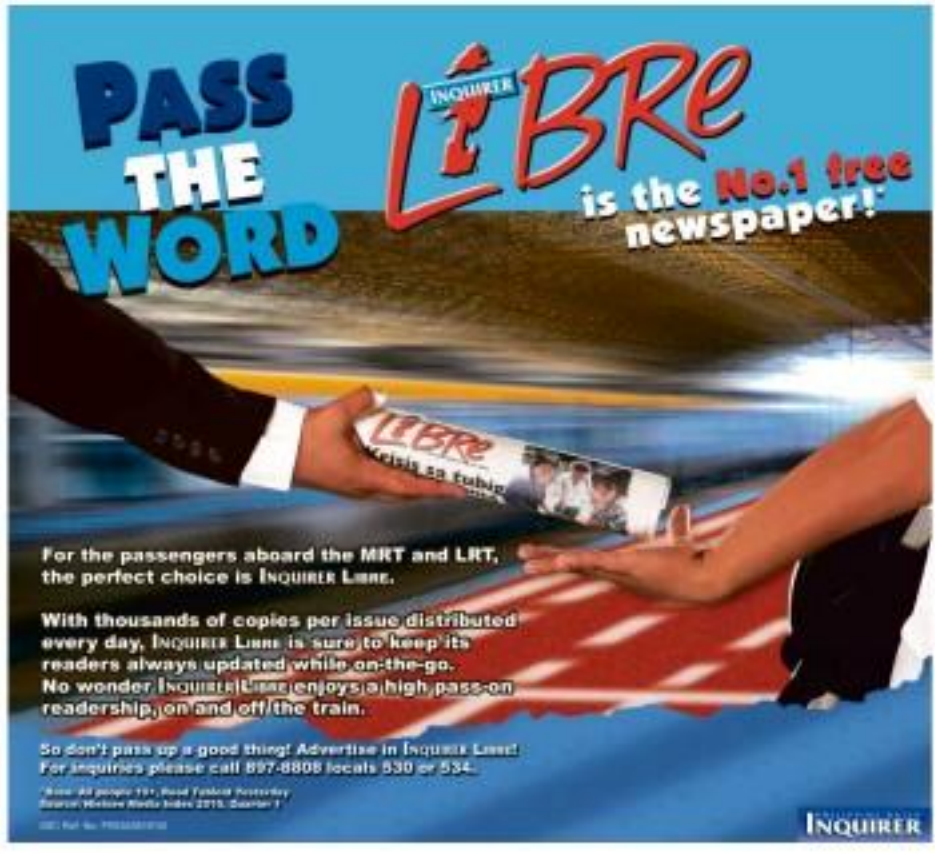
½ c cream
2 tbsps mayonnaise
1 lemon
6 shallots, minced
Salt and pepper to taste
Worcestershire

1. Mix all ingredients except for the mussels and lemon in a small bowl.
2. Arrange mussels on top of mussels and top with additional cheese.
3. Bake in 325°F oven for 10-15 minutes or until cheese melts.
4. Squeeze lemon on top of mussels.

Corned Tuna Siomai

Ingredients:
1 can Corned Tuna
½ c carrot, fine brunoise
½ c white onion fine brunoise
1 tbsp pork lard (or, small, diced
1 egg white
½ c cuttlefish, fine brunoise
siomai wrappers
Salt and pepper to taste

1. Combine all ingredients except for the siomai wrappers.
2. Chill mixture for 1-2 hours.
3. Glaze stainless bar set, start stuffing into siomai wrappers.
4. Steam for 30-40 minutes or until siomai has set.
5. Serve with soy sauce.



Tony Boy Escalante shares interesting recipes

TONY BOY Escalante looked uneasy before his cooking demo at the Metro Supermarket. He never likes to do demos, he said, especially for TV or even for cooking classes.

First, Escalante is shy. Second, chefs find it difficult to adjust to another work environment and for this chef, being away from his familiar kitchen in Tagaytay can do an unnerving, newer kind of thrill. Third, he's not a lover in cooking equipment with automatic programs to make life easier for the cook, amateur or professional.

When he opened Antonio's, now a dining destination in Tagaytay, Escalante said that he didn't have a modern oven. It was mostly made and he had to learn its way of doing things—from heating up to temperature control. Then he argued to the first lesson of the diner—know the oven.

Before he started the session the chef said he remembered what his mentor, chef Norbert Gandley, told him about doing Gratin—forever simple recipes. That was a preached suggestion, but when the recipes were executed, I thought how a recipe, simple by a chef's standards, may not be so easy for amateur cooks.

As in all cooking demos I attend, the techniques are more important to me than the fill up my recipe pad, the instructions through the video till the book and there's information about ingredients, how those were used and where best to buy them.

For the steamed scallops with watercress and coriander, Escalante said to always remove the membrane from the scallops by pan. Rinse them with pepper mignon before cooking.

COUNTRY COOKING

Micky Tovey

The soup was a mushroom cappuccino. He said that when roasting mushrooms, almosts have a big amount of water so just to sweat the juices. Both dried mushrooms in white wine or use brandy. When cooking with wine, don't mix—it's just like cooking with vinegar.

The main course, a salt-crusted chateaubriand, had four elements—the steak itself, the watercress, spinach mousse and roasted potato.

Escalante explained that chateaubriand is a cut in the tenderloin and not a name of a dish. It's that part that's closest to an isolate in dinosaurs.

Before cooking, rising up the meat so cook evenly and hold the water. It should be salted just before the cooking so the moisture doesn't seep out. Into the meat also to retain the moisture within. And once done, rest for 10 minutes.

The bittermelon sauce must have clarified butter. The technique is to use a lean cuisine (water broth) to melt the butter, then take out the cream that floats on the top. Clarified butter, he stressed, must be cold when used in the sauce. And the sauce must be served cold or warm but never hot.

The spinach he used for the casserole had been blanched, then cooked for a while in ice water, then refrigerated. Drain, he said, by wrapping the spinach in cloth kitchen towel. Then squeeze out the water. Morph chop the spinach instead of stirring, in his kitchen. Essence said, he uses olive oil. Flavored with garlic.

When sautéing, use onion ahead of garlic, he said. Someone asked if only onion can be used instead of Gruyere or Swiss, he said yes.

The audience laughed when Escalante said her cuddle's are cheaper choice because he chooses so much.

Steamed scallops, mushroom cappuccino, salt-crusted chateaubriand, Riesling poached pear with cardamom panna cotta

CHEF Tony Boy Escalante with a piece of the salt-crusted chateaubriand and spinach casserole; at right, pouring mushroom cappuccino soup into cups.

Dessert

For the dessert of Riesling poached pear with cardamom panna cotta, he poured aromed cardamom pods that he used are essential to the dish. What I found surprising was, the spice is difficult to source here—he has to order it two months in advance.

For the pears, he said—don't use the Japanese variety because it's too watery. To make sure the pears are completely submerged when poaching, he advised to cut parchment paper the size of the pan, lay it on the pears and hold it in place with a small plate on top.

The best part of the cooking demo is the tasting. And for all of us there, it was like eating at Antonio's, one of Asia's Best 20 in the Miele Guide for two years now. The steamed scallops had a delicate flavor complemented by refreshing slices of watercress. The mushroom cappuccino was hot, smelled and tasted of the quality mushrooms he used. The salt-crusted chateaubriand was perfectly cooked. The steak perfectly without the fried coating out, thanks partly to the Maldi oven where it was cooked. And the Riesling poached pear blended as well with the cardamom panna cotta that we waited we had a second helping.

At the demo progressed, Escalante's nervousness his nervousness. He was, after all, in his milieu, in a kitchen, even not his own. And when he was plating the dishes, he was in his element, commanding his assistants to bring out the food "now" while still hot.

Seminar

Food writer Debora Gunter will be back to launch her book "Food Styling: The Art of Preparing Food for the Camera." She will also conduct a seminar on Nov. 19 at Serena Restaurant and Culinary School, San Miguel by the Bay, BF Shell of Asia Complex.

All tickets sold will be donated on the day. The topics include overcoming challenges in food styling, troubleshooting on the set, the controlled vs. the natural look, the importance of prepping, creating test shots, building your portfolio, working with advertising assignments and meeting the goal standard in food styling.

Seminar fee is only P7,500 which includes the Debora Gunter's book, knife and stocks and P4,500 which only includes knife and stock. Tickets are available in all Toilet World outlets or www.ticketworld.com.ph or call 891-9999.

This seminar is co-presented by Reader's Digest Store, Food Magazine and Lifestyle Network.

E-mail pinoyfood08@yahoo.com.

BRULEE pear-laced pear with cardamom panna cotta.

From 'pan de sal' with 'callos' to a fantastic Mojito

Many reasons Baguio is worth revisiting

I HAVE not been to Baguio in over a decade. And I didn't realize until now how much I've missed this place. Contrary to what I've been told, Baguio is still pleasantly cool specially in the evenings.

When visiting in the summer capital, there are a few things you must do:

Trekking. Weight Shed. Should be on your list. I missed the horse back riding, with the families screaming with joy while I clinging one to make the horse run. You frustrate so much that you end up having all your hair on your forehead.

Another must-go-to place is the market where one can buy fresh veggies, ube and peanut brittle. Good Shepherd strawberry jam is a must-buy.

The entire city should check out are Rose Bowl or Star Cafe with Filipino-Chinese cuisine: Hiam and Pogi's beef mami.

John Mary is always a must for the family.

Today, I've a love of interesting Korean restaurants.

I also drop by a place called Real Pan which serves a classic breadgrowing bakery. I am told the need to be the finest pan dulce in the Baguio area and was called Chinese B. I ordered the Ampong special and have to toasted. Rich steamed rice, it's heaven!

WORD OF MOUTH

Sonnie Garcia

Casa Vallejo

Recently, I added a place on my list—Casa Vallejo, one of Baguio's landmarks.

Completely restored, it has reasonably priced rooms. I remember it for its sturdy wooden floors, high ceilings, relaxing views. This is where families stay to celebrate weekend getaways.

At Casa Vallejo is a new and interesting history with an unusual collection of Pinoy books for sale.

He has a new the entrance. On display is a chilled refrigerator with cheesecake, sticky cinnamon rolls. But what intrigued me was the just-in set with callos stuffing. Hmmm, interesting!

The food writer Debora Gunter will be back to launch her book "Food Styling: The Art of Preparing Food for the Camera." She will also conduct a seminar on Nov. 19 at Serena Restaurant and Culinary School, San Miguel by the Bay, BF Shell of Asia Complex.

All tickets sold will be donated on the day. The topics include overcoming challenges in food styling, troubleshooting on the set, the controlled vs. the natural look, the importance of prepping, creating test shots, building your portfolio, working with advertising assignments and meeting the goal standard in food styling.

Seminar fee is only P7,500 which includes the Debora Gunter's book, knife and stocks and P4,500 which only includes knife and stock. Tickets are available in all Toilet World outlets or www.ticketworld.com.ph or call 891-9999.

This seminar is co-presented by Reader's Digest Store, Food Magazine and Lifestyle Network.

E-mail pinoyfood08@yahoo.com.

SPECIALTY processed tobacco and arabica coffee from the Kiangan municipality of Ifugao

ANNATTO SEEDS Medicinal uses, cooking, dyeing

NIPA PALM WINE Made from the sap of the nipa palm tree

'Pasalubong' picks from Kultura Filipino

BEIJING HOME to pasalubong—or homecoming gifts—is deeply rooted in the Filipino culture, and is a sign of the thoughtfulness, generosity and hospitality our people have long been known for.

Whether these are delicacies from an overseas's trip or a keepsake from one's travel abroad, this strengthens the bond between family members and friends, and conveys to the recipient that the traveller is remembering those close to him during her trip.

Kultura Filipino is a one-stop shop for pasalubong ideas for stateless abroad.

There are classic souvenirs like desk accessories, bottle craft, toys and novelty items with designs of Philippine tourist attractions and culture icons.

MORE than a piece of Filipino ingenuity with this bottle craft.

STYLISH wallets & shoulder bags

This need not go around the country to shop for export quality crafts and delicacies—Kultura Filipino is a treasure trove of all things Filipino, for foodie friends, at her deliveries. From all over the Philippines—yes all—reaches from Albay coconut wine from Quezon, dried mangoes from Cebu, and specialty harvested coffee from Kalinga and Ifugao, among others.

There are also exquisitely designed items small enough to fit in a traveler's luggage...woodcraft from Philippine hamster, gifts from Philippine men, like leather of pearl and capiz, and delicate embroidery items common to embroidery of the Philippines.

"Everyone does give your pasalubong a second to vibe with fashion accessories with a uniquely Filipino touch...jewelry, belts, shawls, bags and more. Made from native materials, these are paired with modern silhouettes that will definitely stand out in any special occasion wear and abroad.

These uniquely Filipino finds are available at Kultura Filipino outlets at selected SM Department Stores, such as SM Makati Annex, SM Megamall, The Block SM City North EDSA, SM Mall of Asia and SM City Cebu.

Visit www.kulturafilipino.com.

THESE tie-and-belt keepsake rings make for a great souvenir suggestion.

Cathay Pacific presents
Hong Kong Disneyland Vacation Packages.
BUY 2 GET 1 FREE!
From US$ 393 per person.*

AIRFARE + HOTEL STAY + PARK TICKET.
From 1 September to 15 December 2016, Cathay Pacific is offering "BUY 2 GET 1 FREE" Hong Kong Disneyland Vacation Packages with an array of value-added benefits.** Experience the magic at Hong Kong Disneyland this fall and winter. From Thursdays to Sundays, 16 September to 31 October 2016, explore Disney's Haunted Halloween, with all sorts of "trickier-tasty" happenings and sights from below who are just dying to meet you.* And from 19 November 2016 to 2 January 2017, Disney's Sparkling Christmas turns Main Street U.S.A.® into a storybook Christmas town. For more details, visit www.cathaypacific.ph or call Cathay Pacific at (02) 8159888 in Manila, (032) 2315343 in Cebu, or (082) 2208991 in Davao.
Your package includes: • Airfare • Hotel accommodation • Park ticket • Return airport hotel transfers • "StayEasy" offer • Late checkout** • Disney MAGICBAND**
*Subject to terms and conditions. Non-refundable. Blackout period applies. **Terms and conditions apply. Available for 15, 16, 18 and 19 September 2016 and 1, 15, 16, 17, 29 and 30 October 2016. For guests of Hong Kong Disneyland themed hotels only. Not valid for tickets.
Hong Kong Disneyland
www.hongkongdisneyland.com
CATHAY PACIFIC
www.cathaypacific.ph

Anime fest presents Japanese food demos

DISCOVER JAPANESE weekend at "The Art of Anime," a festival of exhibits, gaming, cosplay, concert and special activities. The festival dome (SM), slated on Sept. 16, at Function Room 4 of the SMX Convention Center, features special meetings and meet-up with one of the most respected Japanese voice actors, Kenichi Suzumura, and Japanese culture. Gates 11 a.m.–7 p.m. at the village area.

Japanese entertainment Yoshimoto will host Japanese food events to showcase gourmet food and tea treats, based on a recipe created of the Ikibeya Yoshimoto Hall in Shinjuku Odaiba, Tokyo's 1999. Yoshimoto will conduct a demo of "The Art of Beer Dishing Up," as well as a Beer Pour Contest. The festival will also showcase a Japanese Cooking Pavilion, where will host cooking demos and demonstrations for cook, sushi and other Japanese dishes, a cooking competition, and tea ceremony demonstration. Call (0908)881 or (0908)882 or e-mail for hotlines@smsupermalls.com.

Job fair

Job Fest and Career Fair 2016 is slated for Sept. 16–17 at Function Room 6 of the SMX Convention Center. Psychological and attitude-based assessment tests and other training services providers shall also be on hand to conduct tests for posting prospective at the fair. Call (0908)881 or (0908)882 or e-mail for hotlines@smsupermalls.com.

Superkids

A trade fair showcasing companies and brands that offer services to child care, parenting, education, and other child development needs slated September 16–18 is set on Sept. 17 in Function Room 3 at the SMX Convention Center. Call (0908)881 or (0908)882 or e-mail for hotlines@smsupermalls.com.

Sun promo

For only P1 per minute, users treated with as much as 150 minutes of international calls combos, study-wherever-connected to these six major destinations: 877 Alberta, Canada, Hong Kong, Singapore, China and Guam. The Sun Total+ 300 Bisaya pack offers the lowest monthly 300 value promotion in Sun Cellular for which prepaid subscribers. The P1000 denominations (San Pedro 300 Talong card, valid for 90 days, can be loaded on Load card. Several pack, Load Connection and Unlimited Load. Outside the six destinations mentioned above, one will be charged P5 per minute when calling Australia, Malaysia, South Korea, Taiwan, Macau, Brunei or Thailand. Calls to Japan and Italy are P6 per minute. While calls to Saudi Arabia, UAE, and UK are P10 per minute. Simply send Sun Total 300 Bisaya card and dial one international number or landline number to 10 destinations. Dial 2884 from Sun mobile phone or 09088000 and www.sunwireless.com.ph.

World Bread Day

The Cellular Bakers Club, Inc. is celebrating with the US Wheat Associates, Inc. (USW) and Bakers Association of Cebu on Oct. 16, an event created by the CBI International Union of Bakers and Bakers-Confectioners three years ago to celebrate bread as an important food and pay tribute to bakers from all cultures across the world. It also aims to create awareness of the importance of bread, its history and its nutrition that continues to play a major role in the baking industry. The month-long event starts Oct. 1 with activities that include bags, sales, raffles and a bake-off. Contact Bakers Association at secretariat@bakersassociation.com.

Travel photography

Pioneer Intercontinental Center, a chain of versatile retail shops and service centers, is holding a photography and previously a class session at the country, provides an opportunity for photography enthusiasts to participate in travel photography workshop to be held in Clark Pavilion in Cainta, Rizal. Interested photographers and novice photographers are invited to enter their photographs for maritime destinations with closest the final day workshop. Call tel 531-39-4164, 1. the workshop will have Geoffrey Alexander's classes in travel photography and post photography skills to be led by having their take photographs of Pulawan's national beauty and resources. Visit www.destinations-photo.com, www.destinations-photo.com/blog.html or www.pioneerintercontinental.com.

IN THIS ISSUE
■ 'Baon' ideas: Classic Pinoy pork barbecue and Java rice /D2

LIFESTYLE Food

Cheese rolls, 'dulce de leche ensaimaditas,' lemon thins—and is there room for another decadent chocolate cake?

MOM'S Mangoman Cheese Roll

KITCHEN RESCUE

Maggie Asperin

THESE ARE a few of my favorite things.

Imagine dough that is softer than a marshmallow but supple, and subtly flavored such as your mouth but has a nice bite and texture. It's stuffed with cheese (the kind that does not overpower the delicate sweet bread but has a hint of saltiness), baked light golden, brushed generously with whipped butter and topped with sugar.

Mila Gonzalez' cheese rolls are, for me, the best!

Her passion for cooking, perhaps inherited by her Kapampangan roots, inspired her to put up Mom's Mangoman in 2000.

Gonzalez belongs to the warmth-inducing breed of mothers who are kitchen martyrs as well—who draw everything from utensils, from bread to chicharon. I consider that as a compliment.

Her first clients were her children's friends who'd drop by their house and enjoy her homemade breads, pastries and meals. The rest is history.

Gonzalez does not want to expand her business. Happy with her newfound freedom, she says she can go into other hobbies and activities.

Her daughters Shiddy Gonzalez and Mia Sto., however, had other ideas. Young,

CONTINUED

From my list of must-try sweets

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

UP4

Mall

Metro Aide woman mimics dancing cop for points

A 41-year old female Metro Aide was seen dancing in the Kamuning-EDSA intersection, Tuesday. According to bystanders, the street sweeper surprised commuters and pedestrians when she started to mimic the dancing cop. When interviewed, the woman admitted that a co-worker promised her 1,500 Globe points if she dared to dance in public. She added that she wanted the points so she can get a free phone from My Rewards, My Globe.

With a variety of gadgets, handsets, free passes and more to choose from, collecting points has never been this exciting. No wonder more and more people want more points faster.

Now, getting those points you need is made even easier! Just ask your family or friends to text SHARE (space) your 10-digit cell number (space) the number of points they'll share with you and send to 4438.

By asking for points, you can get that new gadget you've always wanted, free gift certificates, or passes to theme parks or cinemas. The sooner you get the points, the faster you get the rewards from My Rewards, My Globe and TM Asstig Rewards.

So ask, beg, do antics or just keep texting for more points!

You can also call 730-1000 or visit www.globe.com.ph/rewards to find out more details.

So if you do the Running Man or Roger Rabbit in public, maybe someone will also give you more points.

ASTIG REWARDS

GARFIELD

A. LIPAY

PUGAD BABOY

DICK TRACY

LOKOMOKOTS

JAMES BOND

DIVINE COMEDY

BABY BLUES

TULOOK

BEH

KISO MACHINE

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Reserve tomorrow's most active, vigorous or vocal hours today. Similarly, do not get entangled in arguments, professional or simple home-and-hearth ones. Just be patient.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) This is a poor day to discuss differences or express opinions about people or anything you wish people with others. Wait for backbiting. Someone is suffering self-inflicted pain there.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Keep things light with partners and close friends. It's easy to be critical of others. You don't want people to do the same, and you don't want to be the critic.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Keep your room clean or work to do. Don't be critical of co-workers. By the same token, be kind to someone who is critical of you. It's partner Bash Day!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Someone might be in the habit today. Money purchases will have little-to-many pattern of behavior. Be sure you're not the one who is in a habit of what it takes to alter one of those. Lighten up!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Try not to react to the comments of family members today, especially authority figures. Don't overreact to what they say today. It's almost like they're trying to get you to react. Don't worry.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Worry is like cooking clean. It gives you something to do, but you can weaken. Take time to relax and enjoy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You probably feel lonely today. Use the time to socialize with others. This feeling will wear up very soon.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Continue with authority figures, especially parents, with the difficult ones disappointing today. Don't be too upset. Remember that it's not your responsibility to.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) You might be surprised and unsure of yourself today. Be reassured that many people feel this way today. It's almost like opposites attract. Don't worry.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Don't let the comments of someone older or more experienced get you down today. Do what? People are looking for opportunities to be critical or just control issues.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) This is not a good day to make a point or express your passion, or to sell for permission or to accept favors, avoid this kind of activity.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answers to previous puzzle

5	3	4	6	7	8	9	1	2
6	7	2	1	9	5	3	4	8
1	9	8	3	4	2	5	6	7
8	5	9	7	6	1	4	2	3
4	2	6	8	5	3	7	9	1
7	1	3	9	2	4	8	5	6
9	6	1	5	3	7	2	8	4
2	8	7	4	1	9	6	3	5
3	4	5	2	8	6	1	7	9

Conceptis Sudoku

	3	9	5		2			6
	8							1
				7	9			
	2			6				4
1				9			7	
			6	2				
5							8	
8			4		7	9	3	

Difficulty Level ★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

'Baon' ideas: Classic Pinoy pork barbecue and Java rice

By Vicky Veluz-Rivera
Contributor

FOR BUSY working mamas, one challenge of a school year is to come up with lunch ideas that will please and nourish their kids. To be sure your kids (and even working mom and/or dad!) will enjoy their lunch, let your kids get involved in preparing their school food.

Let them choose what they want to eat (within reason).

We picked classic pork barbecue (the kind you buy in street stalls with the cheap yummy glaze and nice bits of fat) and Java rice, simply because these are often requested by the over 3,000 students who have enrolled in The Kitchen over the past 12 years.

It is yummy cheap and easy to make and is a family favorite, even of two-of-my-three kids who are otherwise not fond of meat.

It's best to plan it for dinner with enough leftover (double or triple the recipe if unsure) so that the leftovers are for next day's lunch. Just reheat.

Classic Pinoy Pork Barbecue

Cut into ¼-inch strips, across the grain of the meat, about 1 inch by 2 inches (more or less). (Tip: Cutting across the grain will also thin slices so there's tenderness in a cut that is cheap and tasty but tough if not properly sliced.)

½ kilo pork *kasim*

Marinade the meat for at least 30 minutes (longer is better) in:

½ cup soy sauce
½ head of garlic, crushed
1 small onion, chopped
2 tbsp calamansi juice
½ c Sprite or 7-Up (will help the meat caramelize because of the sugar)
½ tsp pepper
½ c sugar (preferably brown)
½ c banana ketchup

Prepare bamboo skewers by soaking them in water (this will prevent them from burning) when the barbecue is grilled).

Thread the marinated meat on bamboo sticks. Reserve ¼ c of the marinade in case you have the most whole grilling and the rest for the final glazing sauce. Grill the meat until done.

Heat in a saucepan:
2 tbsp cooking oil

Add all the remaining marinade set aside for the sauce and bring to a boil, then simmer for 5 minutes. (Tip: Because this has been in contact with raw meat, you need to kill all potentially sickness-causing microorganisms.)

Mix:
¼ c water
1 tsp cornstarch

Add to the marinade sauce and cook until thickened. Check for seasoning, adding a little sugar if it is too salty. Brush this over the barbecue for that shiny glaze. It's even delicious with other foods as a barbecue sauce. Discard any unneeded marinade used for basting.

Java rice

First make the achuete (annatto) oil. Heat in a saucepan:
½ c cooking oil

When it is hot, sauté all the achuete seeds (let stand at least 30 minutes, then strain the oil and discard the seeds).

Heat in a saucepan:
4 tbsp achuete oil (reserve the rest for another use, if you've used)

Add:
3 cloves garlic, finely chopped
1 small onion, finely chopped
1 pc pimiento, finely chopped (or grill 1 red bell pepper over an open flame, peel and de-seed then finely chop)

Cook for about 2 minutes to soften the onions then add:
½ tsp McCormick curry powder (this is not spicy)
½ tsp McCormick chili powder (this is not spicy)
1 large red bell pepper, chopped
3 c cooked rice (at least half a day old)
1 chicken cube crumbled to 2 tbsp water
salt and pepper to taste

Combine well, adding more achuete oil and water if the mixture seems too dry for your taste.

If you like your Java rice with meat, add with the rice:
4 pcs Lucban or Pipas longanisa, cooked and crumbled

(Tips: If you cook the Java rice with the meat it's practically a complete meal, with protein from the longanisa, starch from the rice and antioxidant-rich carotene from the red bell peppers.)

CLASSIC Pinoy pork barbecue and Java rice

Keep your teens busy

A STUDENT prepares the ingredients.

Marco Polo Plaza whips up treats

From Swiss fest to Cebu tours

Text and photos by Winter Ang
Contributor

CEBU CITY'S Marco Polo Plaza hosted a month-long Swiss Alpine Food Festival at its Café Marco buffet restaurant. Fräuleinfrauen, Swiss waiters, schublige and, of course, cheeses like emmenthal, gruyère, and tilsit were added to the restaurant's usual array of Asian and Western servings.

The Swiss festival is part of Luli Marvin's "Culinary Journeys" program that highlights particular cuisines or events in honor of the year. The festivities culminated in a celebration of Swiss National Day in an all-free-to-buffet party at the hotel's Garden Terrace hosted by general manager Johannes "Hans" Hunt.

Hunt, who is Swiss himself, started the annual party with the traditional singing of a Swiss cow bell and jokingly introduced the audience to a cowyodeler (but was standing yodel-encouraged). He celebrated the Swiss guests who made up at least half of the 300-strong head count.

Food executive chef Luke Ingram flamboyantly affiliated with Executive Fiona Kong and Banquet Lia Bautista, Chinese and his staff prepared iconic Swiss offerings like cordon bleu (pork rolled), Geschnätzlets style cheese quiche, spaetzle (noodles) and the very popular rosti (cheese and potatoes).

Veal, pork, beef tongue and, yes, frankfurter (sweet beef) prepared in Swiss methods, were also featured. Swiss chocolate cakes, apple strudels, chocolate fondue, cigarette biscuits and sugar kreuls were culinary delights which were just some of the treats at the dessert station.

Multi-cuisine

The food festival is just one of the many culinary-centric undertakings the hotel comes up with throughout the year to keep itself top-of-mind with its patrons. The hotel has different dining venues for different occasions.

Aside from Café Marco buffet restaurant, it has El Vistro Restaurant and Bar beside its mango-shaped pool. El Vistro specializes in Mediterranean cuisine and serves pizzas from an outdoor wood-fired brick oven.

Guests who prefer to relax indoors can stay at the Lobby Lounge and order wines and tapas while enjoying nightly live entertainment that ranges from acoustic, classical, Latin jazz, to rhythm and blues.

The hotel is in the Nivel Hills district and many guests take advantage of the panoramic views of the Mactan Channel and neighboring islands. Hunt noted that the hotel's penthouse dining venues are popular with locals and tourists for the commanding vistas they provide.

Bizz Bar and Grill

MARCO Polo's Swiss desserts

CAFE Marco

MARCO Polo executive chef Luke Ingram

HONORARY German Consul, Dr. Franz Soldenhoffstuart (2nd from left), and wife Elizabeth (left) with general manager Johannes "Hans" Hunt

The Continental Club Lounge in the hotel's penthouse offers complimentary refreshments and cocktails throughout the day for the exclusive use of guests in-house in the hotel's upper floors. But everyone else in the penthouse has the hotel's Ma Bar and Grill, which offers Continental cuisine and cocktails al fresco.

Heritage

To draw in guests, "We make sure that something is always happening at Marco Polo so that the town always comes up here," Hunt said. "Our lights are always on. We have the biggest fireworks in the city on New Year's Eve and Valentine's Day."

The hotel has also made sure that guests are greeted by staff in resort looking attire. Food attendants wear cadrilles designed by Philip Rodrigues while front desk staff wear Jusi Jon Events.

The man behind all the action is Hunt, a seasoned hotelier who has worked in the hotel-catering industry in Asia the past 23 years. He was general manager of The Hilton, The Peninsula and Shangri-La and has been with Marco Polo Plaza since the chain resurrected the former Cebu Plaza Hotel in 2006.

In the renovation process, Hunt was cognizant of Cebu tourism' shared history with the hotel: "This is where people had debuts, wedding receptions and different celebrations," he said. "We can't just take all those memories from them."

Hospitality

To keep long-time guests and attract new ones, the staff breakfasted up the hotel's 320 guest rooms (which include 20 suites), upgraded the interior furnishings of the 29-storey structure and established new venues within the hotel for Cebuanos and visitors to gather. These efforts have earned them a Definitive Class Hotel accreditation by the Philippine Department of Tourism.

The hotel has tour packages. It can take guests on private tours to a guitar factory, dried mango factory, various furniture showrooms and workshop, and beyond.

"A side trip to Casa Gorordo, Magellan's Cross, Fort San Pedro and Fuller Museum completes the experience," Hunt said. The hotel also offers a southern trail tour, which leads to culturally rich areas like Carcar, known for its shoe factory, Balay na Tisa (an ancestral home), St. Catherine's Monastery and Argao Cathedral.

"What we have come up as an elegant urban resort hotel," he said.

Barbecue noodle soup

Boyet Barbecue serves its own version of this which includes Barbecue Noodle Soup, pork and liver stir-fry, pork chicken barbecue on sticks.

Soya cream tuna

Sizzler Pepper Steak serves Sizzler Soya Cream Tuna (₱139), Salmon Steak with Garlic Soya Cream Sauce (₱195).

Phad macaroni gung

Dusit Thani Manila's Binagayang and Sea restaurants present a degustation of Asian dishes until Sept. 30. Binagayang Royal Thai Restaurant features Spaghetti Phad Kee Mao, Phad Macaroni Gung, Spaghetti Phad Phi Kong, Spaghetti Tom Kha Gung and Spaghetti Gaang Khiew Wan Gai. Tesia Italian Restaurant offers Pork and Lychee Salad, Char-grilled Beef Salad, Mixed Satay Sticks, Gaag-ataat Prawn Rolls, Salmon Cordon with Quinoa Apple Salad and Pistachio Spicy Coconut Cream, Lemon Bean Crème Brûlée, Panna Cotta Flavored with Thai Basil and Rice Pudding with Mango. Both local staff at the Mandarin Level of Dusit Thani Manila, Binagayang and Tesia are open daily for lunch and dinner. Call 867-3333 loc. 1888.

'Sinigang na Ulang'

"Sinigang na Ulang"

KOI Cafe's Mixologist Jessie offers Sinigang na Ulang at Sunday Mangga at Bagoo, which is part of the restaurant's Italian and Peranak Tales. The native shrimp mixed with the tangy familiar ulam-pangkain is given a twist by local mangoes and native vegetables. Koi Cafe Mixologist Jessie is located at the 2/F of The Venice Piazza, McKinley Hill, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City; (632) 8031144 loc.237 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City (632) 8887871.

DINING OUT

Salmon ahumado escalivada

Casa Armas prefers all-new appetizing tapas. Picatte de Huevos Y Verduras, Salmon Ahumado Escalivada, Jamon de Bayas with Tangerine Sauce and Chorizo Cabrales. The restaurant offers complimentary iced tea to customers during its cool ordering tapas hour 3- 6 p.m. Casa Armas is located at 112 Jupiter St., Bel-Air Village, Makati City. (632) 8162425; Greenbelt 1, Makati City (632) 7297 4998; The Podium, Ortigas Pasig City (687-3370). Call 632 2908 5988/8888 2016.

Hainanese chicken

Bellevue Hotel's Phoenix Court offers Chinese-Level of Service with dishes like Hainanese Chicken along Wing Chi Kwin, Steamed Rice with Fine Herbs, Deep-fried Tiger Prawns Salt and Pepper, Roasted Peking Duck, Braised Abalone Claw with Sea Cucumber and Mushroom. The packages are only available for events and banquets held at the hotel's function rooms. Take advantage of this set promo mom's excitement, get a complimentary gift set (Studio 6 as your mom's excitement, get a complimentary gift set (Studio 6 as your mom's excitement, get a complimentary gift set (Studio 6 as your

ENTERTAINMENT

MIKKI GIL, World Vision ambassador for the Youth, listens to the stories and dreams of kids from Mandaue, Cebu. At left, Chris Tiu plays ball with the children of Bosco.

Stars about to go hungry

EAT NOTHING. Do something!

So goes the battle cry of celebrities lending their names to the "12-hour Fandare" campaign of World Vision, a global youth movement against hunger and poverty.

The campaign challenges the youth to raise money to feed hungry children. A symbolic fast happens on Nov. 6, at 9 a.m. at the Flying V Arena in Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

For 12 hours, instead of eating, the participants will distract poverty issues, peruse inspiring videos, conduct prayers, games and talent showcases. World Vision celebrity supporters will present a concert.

"What's 12 hours with me. Feel if we can help save a child's life," said singer-actress Mikki Gil, WV Ambassador for the Youth. Mikki recently visited a dumpsite area in Mandaue City, where she witnessed how children dug into garbage sites for scrap to make a little money for their families.

"Definitely, my eyes have been opened to the reality of child labor," said Mikki. "We all have an opportunity to create change in our own little way ... and before you know it, your one act of kindness has already changed the world."

Gegee Chris Tiu sees "Fandare" as a "great opportunity" to encourage active participation among the more privileged youth. He said the campaign should be a chance for them to "feel the suffering of the poor, even for 12 hours, just once in their lives."

Other celebs who have rallied behind the cause are entrepreneur Cristalle Belo-Henares, theater actor Sam Concepcion, model-host Iliac Iorbon and singer-actor Sam Milby.

To register, dial 8-FANDARE (8-326423), log on to www.worldvision.org.ph/fandare or visit the World Vision Pandare Facebook site.

STARS FOR OTHERS

SAM Concepcion serves as an inspiration to underprivileged children.

SAM Milby hands gifts to children at Bosco—an early Christmas treat.

MAJIC Nielsen spends an afternoon with poor kids at a WV-assisted community in Cebu.

visit: www.smcinema.com

SM CINEMA

ONLINE PROMO!

Visit www.smcinema.com
Answer the "TWO FUNERALS" trivia question and get a chance to win "TWO FUNERALS" T-Shirt

Showing exclusively at SM CINEMA

SEPTEMBER 8

IMAX THEATER

RESIDENT EVIL 4

DIGITAL THEATER

metro manila

SM MALL OF ASIA
SM MEGAMALL
SM CITY MANILA
SM FAIRVIEW
SM CITY SAN LAZARO
SM CITY STA. MESA
SM MARIKINA
SM CITY VALENZUELA
SM MOLINO
SM CITY BICUTAN
SM NOVALICHES
OPENS OCTOBER 21
SM CITY GRANDE

luzon

SM CITY TARLAC
SM CITY LUCENA
SM CITY CLARK
SM CITY BACOLOR
SM CITY STA. ROSA
SM CITY BACOOR
SM CITY SAN JUAN
SM CITY MARILAO
SM CITY CALAMBA
SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
SM CITY BALIWAG
SM CITY SAN FERNANDO
SM CITY PAMPANGA
SM CITY BAGUIO
SM CITY OLONGAPO
SM CITY URDANETA
SM CITY DAGUPAN
SM CITY LINGAYEN
SM CITY CABANATUAN
SM CITY SAN JOSE
SM CITY GENERAL TRIAS
SM CITY ROSARIO

visayas + mindanao

SM CITY CEBU
SM CITY DAVAO
SM CITY ILOILO
SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
SM CITY BACOLOD
SM CITY TACLOBAN

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS NOW ACCEPTED IN ALL SM CINEMA BRANCHES

OFFERS A WIDE VARIETY OF FOOD AND DRINKS AT ALL SM CINEMA LOBBIES

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

Like us on facebook

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

GALLERIA

1 DESPICABLE ME
2 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
3 THE EXPENDABLES
4 GOING THE DISTANCE
5 SA'YO LAMANG
6 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE (Digital 3D)
7 THE LAST EXORCISM
8 JACKASS 3D
9 PHOBIA 2
10 MACGRUBER

MANILA

1 GOING THE DISTANCE
2 THE LAST EXORCISM
3 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE (Digital 3D)
4 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
5 DESPICABLE ME
6 PHOBIA 2
7 SA'YO LAMANG

METRO EAST

1 SA'YO LAMANG
2 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE (Digital 3D)
3 GOING THE DISTANCE
4 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
5 DESPICABLE ME
6 THE EXPENDABLES
7 PHOBIA 2
8 THE LAST EXORCISM

NOVALICHES

1 Kumare at si Ako (Tagalog)
2 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
3 GOING THE DISTANCE
4 PHOBIA 2

FORUM ROBINSONS

1 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE (Digital 3D)
2 PHOBIA 2
3 SA'YO LAMANG
4 DESPICABLE ME

STA. ROSA

1 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE (Digital 3D)
2 AN AMERICAN HERO
3 SA'YO LAMANG
4 FURY VENGEANCE

LIPA

1 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE (Digital 3D)
2 SA'YO LAMANG
3 GOING THE DISTANCE
4 GHOST HOUSE

DASMARIÑAS

1 SA'YO LAMANG
2 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
3 HAMPERS GUCK
4 GOING THE DISTANCE

STARMILLS

1 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE (Digital 3D)
2 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
3 THE EXPENDABLES
4 SA'YO LAMANG
5 HAMPERS GUCK
6 DESPICABLE ME

IMUS

1 GOING THE DISTANCE
2 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
3 SA'YO LAMANG

ANGELES

1 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
2 SA'YO LAMANG
3 HAMPERS GUCK
4 LETTERS TO JULIET

TACLOBAN

1 SA'YO LAMANG
2 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
3 IP MAN 2

DUMAGUETE

1 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
2 THE EXPENDABLES
3 SA'YO LAMANG

BACOLOD

1 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE (Digital 3D)
2 SA'YO LAMANG
3 LETTERS TO JULIET
4 THE EXPENDABLES
5 HAMPERS GUCK
6 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE

ILOILO

1 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE (Digital 3D)
2 GOING THE DISTANCE
3 THE EXPENDABLES
4 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
5 DAS BOOTS
6 SA'YO LAMANG

DENSAN

1 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE (Digital 3D)
2 SA'YO LAMANG
3 DESPICABLE ME
4 GOING THE DISTANCE

ILOCOS NORTE

1 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
2 THE EXPENDABLES
3 SA'YO LAMANG

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

PLAYBACK @P25

September 1 to November 2, 2010

Catch your favorite films one more time at Robinsons NovaMarket!

* Miss You Like Crazy * Love Happens

market!

No more new songs for Gary V?

GMA says there's a chance for singers to come up with their own material.

By Pastrida Catanapoint

GARY Valenciano feels glad that President Noynoy Aquino has acted immediately on one of the concerns raised by the Organisasyon ng Pilipinong Mang-aawit (OPM).

Mr. Aquino has called the attention of the National Telecommunications Commission to implement Executive Order 255, or the law covering radio stations with musical formats to play local songs per hour.

"That there's a tough one," Valenciano says when the musician asks him whether the stations will play a hundred local songs by a Filipino artist.

Technically, that's not "original Pilipino music."

Valenciano, newly elected OPM vice president for internal affairs, admits that, for now, radio may have a different time ending enough material, especially those with contemporary hits formats.

"If we think names pending para lumaong konsi ang panggagaw," he says.

Expanding the rule

On whether it's possible to expand the mix, like playing airs song as long as it's recorded by Filipino artists (think Aiza Seguerra, Charice), Valenciano seals to agreement: "Yeah, maybe so, cos (pick her) class. I'd like to take that up with OPM."

In hindsight, he believes there's now a chance for singers to come up with their own material—after years of following the "practicality" of doing all-cover albums to create record sales.

He cites a recent all-original album by former MYMP member Juris Fernandez, which has four videos on Myx and is reportedly selling well. "For me, it's already a signal for who acts to come up with original songs. The bands have no problem, they've been doing that all along," says Valenciano.

For his part he has picked some of his own songs, which have appeared (but generally overlooked) on previous albums, for release somewhere else this "Replay."

Some of these songs became hits, he says, "but where I perform them when I feel they would fit the occasion, people come up to me and say, 'How can we have a copy of that?'"

He explains: it's like giving the songs a second chance, although they don't have to be played on radio.

One of the tracks included, "Not You," is from his 1995 album "About For Joy."

Another song, "Did It Ever," has a new video and will be aired next week.

But has the 46-year-old singer-songwriter stopped writing new songs?

Valenciano says that, on the contrary, he's actually preserving new compositions on "Send to Mother," his new concert series which opens tonight at the Music Museum.

The small gigs mark his first solo outings since his silver anniversary shows, "Live at 25," held at the Araneta Coliseum.

He points out that performing in a small venue is exactly how he wants to reach his audience now.

"Live at 25' was my way of saying, 'You know what, this is great, and I'm gonna move on,' to greater things which might not be as grand, but more fulfilling than playing at big venues," he explains.

The fulfilling part includes hearing the crowd will react to some of his new songs.

He says that the concert's writer, Freddie Santos, was initially skeptical of the material, which he thought was half-baked.

But Valenciano insists, "Right now this is fully baked already. It's 100 and some, we can't get any purer than that."

He adds that he's also setting a few instrumentals. "There would never be lyrics to those songs," he explains. "It's just an expression that goes beyond words. It gets very emotional actually. The amount of emails that come to me are so much more than just someone is there."

"Send to Mother" is a benefit series for three groups: Kanlungan, Inc., an international non-government organization involved in saving children from sex trafficking; the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund; and Valenciano's own Shining Light Foundation.

Inspiration

He says the concert's title "Send to Mother" is inspired by the 2008 film "Taken" starring Liam Neeson, who plays a former Central Intelligence Agency agent who crushes dozens human smugglers after she is kidnapped by slave traders while traveling in France.

Based on a true story, Valenciano says the lead character's effort, which saved 16 more children, "kept in me—into the desire to continue reaching out to other women, one by one."

He adds: "So while 'Soul to Mother' may also speak about Gary V's emotions and how he moves on stage with the music, there's more to it than meets the eye."

The concert series continues tomorrow and resumes Sept. 22, 23, 29 and 30, with guests who include Duncan Reines, Jericho Rosales and daughter Kimmie Valenciano.

OPRAH Winfrey broadcast TV studio audience with a trip to Australia.

JOHN Mayer would rather talk via his blog.

John Mayer closes Twitter account

NEW YORK—John Mayer is losing friends...on the Internet. The pop singer says he has discontinued his Twitter account, almost he had more than 3.7 million followers. As e-mailed statement says Mayer continues to communicate with fans through his blog. AP

Oprah's surprise

CHICAGO—They shrieked, they gasped, they cried, they hugged—and that was before Oprah Winfrey's studio audience got a trip to Australia.

Winfrey kicked off her 25th and final season of "The Oprah Winfrey Show" on Monday with promised surprises. After teasing the 300 well-mannered members with a suggestion she might take them on a trip to New York, Philadelphia or Los Angeles, she said, "Maybe I should take you all with me to the other side of the world. We're going to Australia!" AP

Defending his new find

TORONTO—Wendy Allen doesn't care for the gossip about his new star, Boston's Justin Bieber, Allen's father-manager.

Allen said he was shocked at gossip columnists' stories that Bieber's mom was a handler on the set of his reality-TV comedy, "Mid-night in Paris" or that he hired another person to sit on the toilet for him.

HILARY Swank

Moved to tears

TORONTO—Oscar-winning actress Hilary Swank on Monday brought on tears as Mass hosts to might mother of rare tumor she portrays in "Conviction," about Betty Anne Waters' struggle to clear her brother of a brutal murder.

The film, directed by Tony Goldwyn, stars Swank as Waters, who served 18 years of her life to overturning her brother Kenny's wrongful conviction. "The difficult part (making this film) is that this is a true story," said Swank. "You can't remove yourself from what you're doing." AFP

Are dark spots worrying you?
Underarms, Nape, Groin & Freckles
= Advance Miracle Whitening Cream
Eye Brow • Eyeliner • Lipstick
PERMANENT COSMETICS
Non-Surgical Facelift
RF & Facial Laser Treatment
Ellen's
Call: 3746665 - 4133375 - 4136357 - 4388072 - 7403242 - 8855626

Windows®. Life without Walls™. ASUS recommends Windows 7
ASUS
Inspiring Innovation • Persistent Perfection
N SERIES
Hear the power.
Feel the power.
N53JQ
Core i5 Mobile
Store Master
ASUS won 3,268 awards in 2009
CINEMA
RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE 3D
SEPTEMBER 10
NEW!
intel CORE
Faster. Smarter.

'Going the Distance' breezily charts its own course

JUSTIN Long and Drew Barrymore

ROMANTIC COMEDIES are fun, but they do tend to quickly slip into a predictable rut. That's why we're particularly pleased when a new romcom production cheerfully refuses to follow the romantic rules and charts its own course...with lovely, by delightful results.

Such a romcom is the latest movie in Drew Barrymore's latest starrer "Going the Distance," which focuses on the largely negative consequences of a couple's breakdown to maintain a long-distance romance. (For fans in San Francisco, while he (Justin Long) is a New Yorker, and they meet in the big Apple while she's a newspaper intern there.

When it's time for her to fly home, they make the big "decision" of loving each other so much that they decide to take the long-distance route and ensure their romance, despite the many difficulties and frustrations involved.

Actually, the time comes when these frustrations get the better of them, despite their best intentions and avowals. They get overwhelmed by issues like remaining loyal, finding "safe" sex for their sex urges and sacrificing any much for his or her career. Eventually, they realize that those guys can't work for the long term, so they finally decide to split.

Uh-oh, is this going to be the usual romcom that ends up as a total downer? No, the film can't be that cruel...as Drew and Justin are able to find a solution to their problem before the movie's final fade.

Viewers are really happy about that because, in the course of the couple's ups and downs, they have gotten to like Drew and Justin's screen characters really well.

Part of their good chemistry results from the relative unpredictability of their zany, and their characters' idiosyncratic views on life and love. They're bizarre, up-front and very different from people who play romantic leads.

Drew's character is particularly affecting, because it's age-appropriate to the actress. She plays a woman who's been kicked down and is now struggling to get up and make a new life for herself, and this "bruised" look gives crabby her character a more mature and "real" portrayal.

It also helps a lot that Drew and Justin used to be a hot romantic item "in real life," so their scenes float with uncommon passion and chemistry. This spark bond enables the two experienced actor to match his screen partner's hugely appealing gawkiness with his own, younger but similarly insightful performances.

Finally, the movie is helped a lot by the portrayals of Drew's two best buddies, irresistible guys who raise those heaps to the production's off-the-wall fun and games and other winning scenes.

VIEWFINDER

Jocelyn C. Uson

At the Cinemas
GLORIETTA 4
GREENBELT 1
GREENBELT 2
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
TRINOMA
MARKET! MARKET!
AYALA CENTER CEBU
MARQUEE
For schedules, please call 729-7777

EXCLUSIVE
NOW ON ITS 2ND WEEK AT GLORIETTA 4, GREENBELT 3 & TRINOMA CINEMAS
THE AMERICAN
A sexy, suspenseful & powerful story which blends intrigue & passionate romance with searing morality tale to vividly reveal the heart of a deeply private man.
MOVIE Rating: Awesome (1) (R13)

At the Malls
GLORIETTA
Activities Center
GREENBELT
Activities Center
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Activities Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU
Activities Center
BONIFACIO HIGH STREET
Activities Center
MARKET! MARKET!
Activities Center
TRINOMA
Activities Center
MARQUEE
Activities Center
ONSTAGE
Shopping Events
For Booking & Inquiries
Please call 756-4801 to 40

BRIGHTEN UP RAINY DAYS WITH HELLOOOODBYE!
See the Cali-based band live at the Ayala Malls.
September 17 | 6:30 PM | Greenbelt 1 Park | 750-4801
September 18 | 6 PM | Activities Center | 888-7014
September 19 | 6 PM | Activities Center | 831-7606
For more details, please visit www.ayalamalls.com
MARQUEE MALL

NOW SHOWING
Featuring the most-advanced
3D TECHNOLOGY
using JAMES CAMERON's (creator of 'AVATAR')
3D FUSION CAMERA SYSTEM
MILLA JOVOVICH
RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE 3D
NEVER SAY DIE
3D in SELECTED THEATERS

OVERHEARD

ANJI Salvacion, Cosmopolitan (Philippines) mag cover girl this month: "Though my parents, brother and sister were in showbiz, I didn't even think of trying. Now that live here, too, it's an experience that I wouldn't give up for anything."

LUCY Torres-Gomez, Good Housekeeping (Philippines) cover girl also this month, on her life with husband Richard: "There's been no dull days so great that order out of an ever-re... sustained the idea of a life apart from the other. There's just no plan B. No making our marriage work is not an option."

IMAN Dingwall, de... posting "American Idol" judge: "I felt like I was the lottery winner. I joined [the show] two years ago, but I feel like now is the best time to [win]."

Broadway inspiration

BACK STORY

Lea Salonga

MANILA—Ahhh. I'm back from my travels ... but only for a week, as I'll have to be on a plane again soon, heading to London to start work on the "Les Miserables" 25th anniversary Concert. "I can't wait to get started. Way too exciting!

Over the last few weeks, though, I spent my time traveling from to California and to New York, then finally to Hawaii. Suffice to say, my body doesn't really know where it is right now.

I already wrote about my stay in California. Time to update the crazy traveling.

I arrived in New York on Aug. 22 and I only got three nights enough to take care of a couple of things, my 30K was being at the top of my to-do list. For the first couple of days, I enjoyed walking to Central Park (which is never a bad thing).

Between work-related commitments and seeing friends and family, I had time to take in two Broadway shows: "Memphis the Mind" (which features the music of Green Day) and "A Little Night Music," now starring Bernadette Peters and Elaine Stritch.

'American Idiot'

I was taken to a "pay day" by friend (and "Allegiance" composer) and lyricist Jim Rice to dinner at 44 & 2 (Bernadette's restaurant, how cool is that?) and then to "American Idiot," playing at the St. James Theatre on West 44th Street. We were joined by another couple of friends, Scott Hunt (co-owner of 44 & 2) and Blair Shepard. Jim's incredibly "broadcast-know-not-even-begin-to-describe-how" excitement.

Everyone seemed to be on a "low carb" diet (my husband and I are actually on a variation of one, and I'm proud that I was able to stay on it during my trip)...that is the most just, anyway. I remember vegetables and tons of fish. After dinner, we all walked two blocks to the St. James.

Quite honestly, I had no idea what to expect. I did see the Broadway cast performers on the Grammy's, but performances out of context don't always translate well. I showed my hand, rattled in my seat, and wondered exactly what it was I would see.

As the curtain rose, I can't say that Lara Jo Johnson measures that would. Throughout the show, display images that were directly related to the live action taking place on stage.

The opening number had everyone living the 21st. Blinking images of what's going on online: The news, unfiltered news, idiotic TV shows, and whatever else might be perceived as the stuff that "dumbs down" America. It follows the story of three young men, each following a different path through a story as their lives. One becomes an unwed father, one remains in his hometown, another goes through the revolving door of drugs and sex, and the last enlists in the military. At the end of the day, they converge at their starting point.

It took me a while to get into it, but it did have my attention enough. Perhaps on my next trip to New York, I'll take it in again.

'Night Music'

I had already seen "A Little Night Music" before, when Catherine Zeta-Jones and Angela Lansbury were in the cast, but which I loved. Hal Prince's production featuring Bernadette Peters and Elaine Stritch, two of Stephen Sondheim's most gifted interpreters (Bets Peters had been in "Sunday in the Park with George" and "Into the Woods," and Ms. Stritch in "Company"). I relied my memory to make sure I had seen. This was one show (and two stars) that I was not willing to miss. I had never seen either of them live on stage, so this was something I was so excited to see.

Dear Lord, what a beautiful experience it was. Ms. Peters tailored to much lesser into her interpretation of Desiree, and that heart threaded through the entire company. "Send in the Clowns" was heartbreaking, her interpretation, not even pretend her love.

> I left the theater exhilarated, my heart racing, my pulse just as rapid

Her chemistry with her leading man Alexander Hanson (as the deliciously handsome Fredrik Egerman, who makes gray hair look incredibly sexy) could be felt in the very back rows of the theater. It isn't often that I enjoy a romantic, older couple in a show, and this pair won me more secondary than many younger pairings. I've seen on other occasions.

As for Ms. Stritch, her many lapses in dialogue aside, was a riveting presence in Madame Armfeldt. Her last major moments of humor (that had nothing to do with her forgetting a line here and there ... kudos to the cast for being so present and aware) are still in moments of sadness. Her every turn is punctuated by a naughty knowing smile, which is at the audience and head laughing at that cast. I did miss Angela Lansbury's Madame Armfeldt.

Encore

I left the theater that night exhilarated, my heart racing and my pulse just as rapid. It's always inspiring and awesome to see the theater at work. I believe that every artist aspires to leave such an impression on an audience, and seeing some of the best in the flesh doing just that only serves to heighten my appreciation and push me to reach the heights of excellence. To Bernadette Peters, thank you for such a wonderful night. It is one I will never, ever forget.

RED CARPET

JENNA Dewan, Lea Salonga and Taylor Swift at the LA premiere of "Easy A" on Monday, Sept. 13.

FILM CRITICS' NIGHT OUT: Contest judges and organizers at the cocktail (from right) Rey Iglesias, Christian Dimla, Teddy Co, Marinella Soares, Digna Santiago and Anna Pravia; seated, winner Ploy Quintos, Pete Lacaba and Edna de Borja

Films about RP history need never be boring

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

MORE about our history need never be stuffy and/or staid.

The Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP) recently announced the four winners of its "Sinag Maynila" Film Festival Script Writing Contest.

Judge Teddy Co said all 44 entries were "enlightening and promising." The jury was led by Rey Iglesias Angara.

Journalist Jose Lacaba's "Balangay" won the top prize as "sheer brilliance and polish." TV director Ploy Quintos' "That Hot Hill Up Ayala," in second place, was hailed as "ingenious."

Third prize went to Eduardo Roche and the late Henry Francia for "The Whistlestop of Time: The Bill of Sale incident," about the ex-"Hollywoodwendy" Special Mention went to Aurel Mariscal's "Mangalyan," for being a vote by story breaking Mindanao."

Tilt vision

Then FDCP chair Rolando S. Tolentino explained the film vision: "To promote and support the development and growth of the local film industry as a medium with the ability to uplift authority, moral and social standards for a better appreciation of the Filipino identity."

Lacaba told the assembly that his script was commissioned by filmmaker Chito Roño in 2004. Lacaba said Roño, a fantastic, had left enough about the events in the 23 years of the Balangiga bells, which were taken as war booty by the United States during the Philippine-American War.

Quintos ran on about a "little-known yet fascinating historical figure": William Dosser, the last American civil governor of Pangasinan province.

"Ken Dyson as he was known, wanted to be an Pagasa... but he died a lonely old man in Los Angeles," Quintos said.

A roleplay

Roche originally wrote his winning script as a roleplay in 1997. The project stayed in limbo for years. "Land reform issues have to be a one-hour drama," said Roche.

The famous local characters of a revolutionary general who was assassinated. "Dick Aquino wrote a glowing introduction to it. Gen. Martinez wrote a letter," Roche said, but to no avail. "I don't know if it was no problem or wanted to trash it."

2012 target

Indie veteran director Mario Quiambao and Vic Acevedo of Mangalyan are in Manila to assess video exhibition against Asia that's not still so good. I plan to make the film by 2012. Texas will be proud to know that it has a hero that is not honor alongside Macario Sakay," Mangalyan hasn't yet seen the script for his film made Da Pinoy to Pa.

FDCP is "willing to assist producers and like-minds" who may want to bring these scripts to the big screen.

Launched in February 2010, the contest is in response to the 2006 birth of the concept of national hero Jose Rizal, the 65th anniversary of EDSA (predecessor from the '65 and the 25th anniversary of the People Power revolution next year.

my phone

BAKIT WALANG TV ANG PHONE MO?

TV
DUAL SIM
QWERTY
CAMERA
BLUETOOTH
RADIO
MUSIC
PINOY CONTENT

Sa September 17 na!

1 DAY SALE

QTV20 Duo

P2,590 lang!!!

Available at all mobile phone stores nationwide.

Get a chance to win

P1,000,000

on Christmas Day and over 100 phones to be given away.

*TEXT **MYPHONE** and send to **3989** for promo mechanics.

My Latto promo period: Sept. 16-Dec. 25, 2010

back covers sold separately